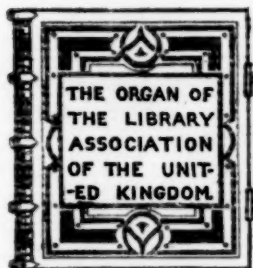


The Library

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The Library.

Lord Crawford's Ballad Catalogue.¹

NO class of fugitive literature has had so great a tendency to disappear as that of broadside ballads. Printed in sufficient numbers to meet the demands of hawkers who vended them in the streets, at country fairs, or at the cottage doors of the peasantry, it may be easily conceived that as the price was small—invariably a penny—the ballad would be conned over by the purchaser, and perhaps passed from hand to hand until quite worn out; or, if it escaped that fate, it might be affixed to the kitchen wall where time and smoke rendered it an eyesore to be removed at the first house cleaning. The very popularity of the ballads ensured their destruction, and they shared with primary school-books the rough usage of the illiterate and the young.

That so many broadside ballads have survived is greatly due to far-seeing men such as Samuel Pepys and John Bagford, who considered all fish that came to their net, and by storing up ephemeral prints have earned the gratitude of students of a later time. The difficulty of procuring these ballads in any number at the present day is very great, and we can only wonder at the marvellous success that has attended Lord Crawford's efforts in forming a collection of the magnitude of that described in the Catalogue recently printed. Very different was it in former times when Mr. Jonathan Oldbuck, Laird of Monkbarns, triumphantly explained to his visitor, Mr. Lovel, "See this bundle of ballads, not one of them later than 1700, and some of them an hundred years older. I wheedled an old woman out of these, who loved them better than her psalm-book. Tobacco, sir, snuff, and the *Complete Syren*, were the equivalent." But we very much doubt whether like good fortune may ever befall a nineteenth-century collector, for apart from the present collection,

¹ A short preliminary notice will be found in *The Library*, vol. ii. 471.

those of any extent in private libraries can easily be counted on the fingers of one hand.

It is always a matter of interest to learn in what way such a collection as Lord Crawford's has been formed, and we feel that we cannot do better than state it in his own words: "It has grown from modest size to considerable volume. I bought a few at first as typographical curiosities, and to illustrate the woodcut ideas of the times, but I soon desired to acquire more. I found an opportunity, and bought of Mr. Ellis the three volumes which had at one time belonged to Mr. Ouvry, late President of the Society of Antiquaries—a collection which, I believe, had originally been formed by Mr. J. Payne Collier. This interesting series had been catalogued by Mr. T. W. Newton in the year 1877, when a few copies were printed for private distribution. To these three volumes I gradually added five others, or some five or six hundred additional pieces of varied interest. But by far the most valuable acquisition I have been able to make was the purchase, in 1885, of Lots 139, 140, and 141 of the Jersey sale. The collection, as it came into my hands, consisted of 787 ballads, having but few duplicates among them. About 60 of these I placed in the British Museum, on learning that they were greatly wished for there; the remainder were incorporated with my own. Since that date only one collection of any importance has come into the market, and that I was fortunate enough to secure from the Messrs. Sotheran."

If Lord Crawford has done well in acquiring his collection, he has certainly done better in presenting his friends with a complete descriptive catalogue of the ballads. Rarely is it our good fortune to find a work so unexceptionably good in every respect. The information contained in it is fully but concisely stated; there is every evidence of great pains having been taken to secure accuracy; and far from being a dry statement of bibliographical facts, the volume is replete with interest to the historian and the student of manners and customs of bye-gone days. Let us take as an instance the ballads on "Young Jemmy," the Duke of Monmouth. We have descriptions of poetical compositions on the various events of his tragic career, from his banishment by his father to Holland to the defeat of his forces at Sedgemoor. This naturally leads on to the "Bloody Assize," on which we have the ballad commencing:—

"Alas! we Widdows of the West
Whose Husbands did Rebell."

From that we pass to the fate of the chief actor in that foulest tragedy in England's history, and among the Elegies we find one on Sir George Jeffreys, written "at the Request of the Widows of the West, whose Husbands were Hang'd without Tryal by this Lord Chancellor." This is only a slight indication of the value of the present Catalogue as recording popular feeling on the passing events in a stirring period of the nation's history. In the same manner we might quote the ballads on Titus Oates and the Popish Plot, on Dutch William and his Queen, on the great generals Monk and Marlborough, and on the statesman Shaftesbury, but enough has been said to show the importance of these ballads in helping one to form an opinion of the estimation in which public characters were held by their contemporaries.

Then, again, the old ballads depict in colours that time cannot fade many customs of the past. The dance round the May-pole, the sorrows of the lover separated from his lass by the press-gang, the humours of Bartholomew Fair, the barbarous scenes at public executions, the licensed beggar or Gaberlunzy Man—are only a few of the topics treated of in compositions which were in a very special degree the popular literature of the age. It has been well said by one who recognized the vast power that lay in them to influence the people—"Let me write a nation's ballads and I care not who makes her laws."

We now pass to the methods of describing the broadsides. In the first place we may state that the following catalogues of ballads have been printed, all of which may be very summarily dismissed. Mr. Huth's are described in the catalogue of his library, but it is merely an enumeration of the titles in the order in which the ballads have been bound up in volumes. The Euing collection, now in Glasgow University Library, was catalogued by Mr. J. O. Halliwell for Mr. J. Russell Smith, with prices attached to each sheet, but the arrangement is by the first word of the title and there is no index, which renders the work of comparatively little value. The ballads in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries have been described in Mr. Robert Lemon's *Catalogue of Broad-sides*; unfortunately they are mixed up with prose pieces and the arrangement is chronological, but there is a fairly complete index. Those in the Chetham Library are described in a work which may be characterised as—chaos. A number of the earliest ballads in the library at Britwell were described by Mr. W. Christie-Miller in a privately printed *Alphabetical List*, but the arbitrary selection of words

under which anonymous pieces are placed makes reference difficult, although only eighty-eight broadsides are catalogued. The compilation by Mr. T. W. Newton, descriptive of Mr. Ouvry's collection, we have never had the good fortune to examine.

Profiting by the experience or failures of others, Lord Crawford has been fortunate in making a new departure in dealing with broadside ballads. He has arranged his Catalogue "in alphabetical order of the first lines of the ballads—always disregarding the use of the articles, 'a', 'an', and 'the'." The plan commends itself at once as sensible and convenient, if for no other reasons than the extreme difficulty of discovering the authorship of the majority of ballads, and the paramount importance of the opening lines of a ballad as compared with its title. But when the cataloguer is confronted with such difficulties as Lord Crawford met with in the compilation of his work, "that often the same title is used for several distinct ballads; and again, more than one title is used for the same subject-matter; . . . and that even were the old (or title-first-word) method adopted, somewhat would have yet to be left to the discretion of the cataloguer, in omitting words from the titles before him," the immense advantage of the first-line arrangement will be recognized by the most sceptical. The objection may be raised that in disregarding the articles at the commencement of the lines an integral portion of the measure is lost. But "utility must triumph over pedantry." It is not unusual to find several ballads beginning with different articles followed by the same noun or adjective, and it necessarily follows that to remember whether the opening line of a piece commences with the article "a" or "the" is more difficult than to recollect the word which immediately succeeds.

The entries in the Catalogue are numbered from 1 to 1466. This current number is followed by the first two lines of the ballad; then the title in full, with any poetical quotation that may appear at the head of the sheet; the tune, if stated; the number of lines of music, if any; the burden or chorus; the author's name; the licenser's *imprimatur*; the imprint; the number of columns and woodcuts; the type in which it is printed; references to copies in other collections and to the Ballad Society's publications. From this it will be seen that the information is sufficiently full to be interesting, and also useful in identifying copies of the same edition, or in detecting variants.

The Catalogue is followed by an excellent "List of Printers, Publishers and Booksellers," which "gives the place where the individual lived at the time of issue, the dates between which he was known to have exercised his calling, and a reference to such ballads in this collection as bear his imprint." The difficulty of constructing such a list will be realised when we consider that in "very few instances, indeed, is a date found on a ballad," so that every device must be resorted to in order to arrive at an approximation to the correct period during which the printer worked. There is every probability that when Professor Arber's long-expected index-volume to the *Transcript of the Stationers' Registers* appears, certain corrections may have to be made in the list, but meanwhile it is a welcome contribution to the history of printing.

Although Lord Crawford has deposed the title of the ballad from its place of honour, yet he has recognised its usefulness by adding to the Catalogue "a copious index of first titles, second titles, tunes, music, burdens, and authors." The fulness of the index leaves nothing to be desired, for not only are all these matters dealt with, but whenever a proper name or incident occurs, a reference to the index will afford a ready clue to the ballad.

After the index come two appendices, both arranged in alphabetical order under the first lines of the ballads. The first appendix gives the contents of the list of ballads on sale by Thackeray in 1685, of which only one copy is known; the second is an index to the Huth and Euing collections. Of the Thackeray list only four ballads have not been identified; to all the others references are given to existing copies when not contained in the *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*. In the second appendix, besides stating the current number in the two collections indexed, the publication of the pieces by the Ballad Society is denoted, and an asterisk shows that a copy of the sheet in question is in Lord Crawford's library.

In conclusion, we most heartily congratulate the compiler on the production of a bibliographical work original in its plan, and of exceptional excellence in its execution. The Catalogue will be valued for its rarity, as only one hundred copies have been printed, for its intrinsic merits, and for its beauty as an example of typography.



A Charing Cross Printer, Robert Wyer.

WITHIN a stone's throw of what is now Villiers Street, Charing Cross, once stood the noble town residence of the Bishops of Norwich. In aftertimes the house had an eventful history, passing successively through the hands of the Dukes of Suffolk, the Archbishops of York, and the Dukes of Buckingham. It was for years the home of the Chancellors of England, and was the birth-place of Francis Bacon.

But at the beginning of the sixteenth century it was in the hands of its original founders, the Bishops of Norwich. Its lands stretched down to the river, and amongst the tenements belonging to it was one over which hung the sign of St. John the Evangelist. This house was occupied by a printer, named Robert Wyer, one of the busiest of the few masters of the craft then in England.

Scanty indeed has been the fame meted out to the memory of Robert Wyer. Scarcely anyone knows that such a man ever existed. About 12 years ago a clergyman, in the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, wrote an account of the parish in the olden time, but seems to have been entirely ignorant that any printer lived in it. Readers of Thornbury and Walford's *Old and New London* may search in vain for any notice of him.

There is a brief account of him in the various editions of Ames' *Typographical Antiquities*, followed by a highly useful study of the books which he printed. Since the last revision of that work our sources of knowledge have greatly increased, many extensive and valuable libraries have gone to the hammer; bibliographical research has become keener, and many hitherto unknown works printed by Robert Wyer have come to light. On the other hand, the materials at hand for dealing with his personal history are of the very scantiest description, and this accounts, in a great measure, for the small notice he has hitherto received. To begin with the rent rolls of the London property of the bishopric of Norwich have been either lost or destroyed, for they cannot be traced, while such of the subsidy rolls as relate to the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields yield no information about him. Hence, it is impossible to say when he first went to live in "the Bishop of Norwich's Rentes."

Nor is there any authentic record of his death. He was not a member of the guild of stationers, and the fact of only a few of his works having a date still further increases the difficulty of finding out anything about him.

Nevertheless, there is much doubt, ignorance, and error in the scanty record of Ames' that can be cleared away, and if in doing so the attention of the learned can be directed to the life-work of this very remarkable printer some good will have been done.

In the first edition of Ames', in the notice of Robert Wyer, there appeared a footnote respecting a work, entitled, *Expositiones terminorum legum Anglorum*, dated 1527, and bearing a device similar to Wyer's, but believed to be, on what authority it is not stated, from the press of one, John Butler or Boteler, who carried on his business at the sign of St. John the Evangelist in Fleet Street. From this it was argued that Wyer might have been Butler's pupil, and had adopted his sign when setting up for himself.

Of Butler's work it was said only one other specimen was known, namely, *Parvulorum Institutio ex Stanbrigiana Collectione*. Since then two other works have been traced to Butler's press. The first is a fragment of a poem, entitled, *The Ieaste of Sir Gawayne*. On the last of the four quarto leaves of the copy in the Lambeth Palace Library are the words, "Imprynted at London in Flete Street at the Sygne of Saynt Johan Evangelyste by me, Johan Butler." The second is a copy of Stephen Hawes' *The Conversyon of swerers*, noticed in the catalogue of the Huth Library.

But the theory of a possible connection between Wyer and Butler is greatly strengthened by the discovery in the Bodleian Library of another of Stanbridge's works printed by Wyer at Charing Cross. That work is entitled *Vocabula Magistri Stabrigii sua salte editione edita*, and bears the colophon, "Imprynted by me, Robert Wyer, dwellynge at the sygne of Saynt Johan Evangelyste in Saynt Martyn's parysshe, besyde Charynge Crosse."

This work has no date, but was unquestionably one of the first that issued from Wyer's press. This would put it about the year 1530.

In the year 1536, William Rugge, abbot of St. Benet, Hulme, was made Bishop of Norwich, and immediately parted with all the lands of his bishoprick (including, of course, the London estates) to King Henry the VIII. in exchange for lands belonging to the Abbey of Hulme and priory of Hickling. In the same year the king transferred Norwich House in the

Strand to one of his powerful nobles, Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, in exchange for a house in Southwark. And from that time forward, Wyer, when he gave any definite address at all, stated that he lived "besyde the Duke of Sufolkes Place" or "in the Duke of Sufolkes Rentcs."

It is important to bear this change of Wyer's address in mind, because it helps the bibliographer to assign certain books to certain periods, instead of making wild guesses at dates that prove afterwards to have been wide of the mark.

Thus, then, all the books printed by Robert Wyer and bearing the imprint of the Bishop of Norwiche's Rentcs, were printed before the year 1536; and all those that have the imprint of the Duke of Suffolk's Place, were printed after that year. What confirmation is there of this? First of all, two of the few books that issued from the St. John the Evangelist, with a date, viz., *The Golden Pystle, of Richard Whyteforde*, printed in 1531, and Garard's *Interpretacyon . . . of the Masse*, printed in 1532, both bear the imprint "in the Bishop of Norwich's Rentcs."

But two stronger proofs of the value of bearing in mind this change in the ownership of Norwich House, is to be found in the catalogue of the British Museum Library. In that library is a copy of the *Assize of Bread and Ale*, printed by Robert Wyer; and the authorities have given the probable date of printing as 1528.

But on turning to the colophon it is found that the book was printed in the Duke of Sufolkes rentcs, i.e., after 1536, and from internal evidence, a still nearer approach can be made to the actual date of printing. Incorporated with the book is the *Assize of Wood and Cole*, in which is quoted at length a Statute of Parliament that was to take effect from the Feast of the Purification in the year "a thousande fyve hundred, forty and three."

The second instance is that of a work entitled *The C Hystories of Troy*, printed by Robert Wyer, according to the British Museum authorities, about the year 1530. But here again the colophon proclaims that the work was printed in the Duke of Sufolke's Rentcs, or, after 1536. By this means no less than thirty-eight works printed by Wyer can be assigned to periods. This, no doubt, still leaves the bulk of the books known to have been printed by him unaccounted for. In these cases the colophon merely says: "Imprinted by me, Robert Wyer," or

"Imprynted by me, Robert Wyer, dwellinge in St. Martyn Parysshe, in the felde besyde Charynge Crosse," or some such vague description. But, at any rate, it brings us nearer to the truth, and in course of time there is no reason why many others should not be cleared from the mists of doubt that hover round them.

To pass now to another matter respecting Robert Wyer, about which error and ignorance have long lingered. At the time of the late revision of Ames' work, the latest date found in any book printed by Wyer was 1542, and the work was Vaughan's *Dialogue defensive of Women*. It was, therefore, assumed that he died, or at all events ceased to print in that year.

There is abundance of evidence, however, to prove that such was not the case, that, in fact, he was printing as late as the year 1556, and it was not until the year 1560 that he was succeeded at the sign of the St. John the Evangelist, by Thomas Colwell, a freeman of the newly-formed Stationers' Company. There are Almanacs and Prognostications for the years 1555 and 1556. In another book there is an author's preface dated from Thavies Inn, Holborn, 1550. Again, he is found printing for a brother craftsman, Richard Kele, of the Long shoppe in the Poultry, whose earliest dated work was 1545.

Here, then, we have a life-work of thirty years. That it was a busy life is proved beyond a doubt by the number of works that have come down to us from his press, for it must be remembered that printing was a much longer process then than it is to-day.

Passing these works in review, and noting their varied character, the style of the printing and the quality of the paper, it is not hard to form a theory respecting Robert Wyer and his work. Herbert somewhat contemptuously dubbed him a printer for the ballad stalls.

True, we do not find sumptuous Bibles, or choice editions of Chaucer turned out by Wyer. He was the printer for the people and all honour to him for it. Most of his publications were little brochures, roughly printed, coarsely bound and illustrated with rude woodcuts, but they shew us what were the books that were read in the sixteenth century by the general public. Instead of treating them and their printer as beneath notice or remembrance, they should attract attention as specimens of a very curious literature.

All was grist that came to the mill of Robert Wyer. Astronomy, botany, geography, divinity, medicine, a romance, a play, with a sprinkling of law and history.

Moreover, the knowledge conveyed through these little volumes was the best that could be found in those days. The astronomy came from the writings of Aristotle and Ptolemy; the botany included Macer's *Herball*; in geography the name of Ptolemy is met with again. The authors in divinity included Thomas à Kempis, Martin Luther, William Hunnis, and lesser men, such as Richard Whytforde, brother of Sion and Friar Garard of the Order of Observants. In medicine, the name of the great physician of the day, Andrew Borde, stands out prominently as the author of *The Dietary of Helthe*, *The Boke to Lerne a Man to be Wyse in Buyldeynge of his Howse*, and *The Seeing of Urines*.

As an instance of how misleading a printer's error may be, it may be noted here that Herbert, in his addition of Ames', declared that he had in his possession a copy of *The Dietary of Helthe* printed by Thomas Colwell in 1542. It has already been shown that Colwell did not succeed Wyer until 1560, and the copy in question was not printed until 1562.

Amongst Wyer's publications are several "curiosities of literature." Foremost amongst these must be ranked a work bearing the following title:—*Here begynneth a lytell boke of the xxiiii. stones pryncipelles that profyteth most to man's body*. After reciting the 24 stones it goes on to relate some of the most astonishing fables respecting their origin and discovery.

Then again there is the *Treatyse Answerynge the Boke of Berdes*, *compyled by Collyn Cloute, dedycated to Barnarde Barber dwellynge in Banbery*. On the last leaf are the words, "Barnes in the defence of the Berde."

Wyer, however, did not confine himself to ballad or stall literature, and he turned out one or two works, that for clearness of type, &c., were equal to anything turned out by the brethren of the craft in Fleet Street. As a specimen of printing in the 16th century his copy of *The Defence of Peace*, a work translated by William Marshall from Marsilius de Padua, may justly take rank as a very fine work.

It is clear, from the above rough sketch of his work, that Robert Wyer was by no means an obscure man, but deserves to rank as high as many of his contemporaries, and it is much to be regretted that so little is known of his personal history. As

one of the few printers who worked at the West End of London, long after Wynkyn de Worde had settled within Temple Bar, he certainly deserves notice in any work that professes to be a history of London.

HENRY R. PLOMER.



Book Sales, 1744—1828.

THE first of the long series of auctions by the old-established firm now flourishing with undiminished vigour under the respected names of "Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge," is that of the library of Thomas Pellet, M.D., in 1744, by Samuel Baker, after whose death, in 1778, the business was carried on by George Leigh, who had been for the last six years associated with him. In 1780 Mr. John Sotheby, Baker's nephew, was taken into partnership, and twenty years later, viz., in 1800, his son, Samuel Sotheby, joined the firm. The elder Sotheby died November 1st, 1807, having retired some four years previously, as his name does not appear in any catalogue later than 1803; and from 1804 to 1816 the business was continued under the firm of "Leigh and S. Sotheby," and after the death of Mr. Leigh by Samuel Sotheby alone until 1830, when he was joined by his son Samuel *Leigh* Sotheby, who died June 19th, 1861, having been in partnership since the year 1843 with Mr. John Wilkinson, the present head of the firm of "Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge," the last named gentleman having, after some years' service in the house, become a partner in 1864.

The following selection from a list, in my possession, of nearly one thousand catalogues, comprises, in alphabetical order, all the more important and interesting libraries which have fallen under the hammers of Samuel Baker and his successors down to the end of the year 1828.

Adair, James, Chief Justice of Chester (two parts)	1798	Beckford, W., of Fonthill (Dpcts.)	1817
Addison, Rt. Honble. Joseph ...	1799	Beddoes, Thos., M.D.	1809
Alexander, W., F.S.A.	1816	Berkeley (Bp. of Cloyne)	1796
Allen, Thomas (Part 1)	1795	Bigland, Richard (Historical, Ge- nealogical, &c.)	1799
" " (Part 2)	1799	Bindley, James	1819
Andreossi, General (French Am- bassador)	1803	Bland, Robert, M.D.	1816
Anstis, John (Father and Son), Kings of Arms (MSS.)	1768	Bonaparte (Emperor Napoleon) .	1823
Ascough, G. M. (two parts)	1800	Boswell, James	1825
Askew, Antony, M.D. (Books) ...	1775	Boucher, Revd. Jonathan (Parts 1 and 2)	1806
(MSS.)	1785	Boucher, Revd. Jonathan (Part 3)	1809
Ayloffe, Sir Jos., Bart.	1782	Brander, Gustavus, F.R.S.	1790
Baber, John, Esq., of Sunninghill	1766	British Museum (Duplicates) ...	1788
Banks, Rev. J. Cleaver	1821	" " " " " " " " " " " " "	1805
Barker, G. H. (Numismatic, &c.)	1803	" " " " " " " " " " " "	1818
Beckford, W., of Fonthill (Dpcts.)	1808	" " " " " " " " " " " "	1819
		Brockett, J., Trotter, F.S.A. ...	1823

Burden (Bookseller, including the Libraries of Bishop Hoadley and Shipley; two parts) ...	1807	Mead, Richard, M.D. Part 1.	1754
Barney, Charles, Mus. D., F.R.S.	1814	Part 2.	1755
Bute, Earl of (Duplicates) ...	1785	Montagu, "Edward" Wortley ...	1798
" (Botanical) ...	1794	Newton, Mrs. Anne (including Library of Sir Isaac N.) ...	1813
Carter, John, F.S.A. ...	1818	Nichols, John ...	1828
Chandler, Samuel, D.D., F.R.S.	1766	Park, James ...	1826
Combe, Taylor, F.R.S., F.S.A.	1826	Pegge, Revd. Samuel, LL.D., F.S.A. ...	1798
Copley, J. Singleton, R.A. ...	1820	Pegge, Samuel, Esq. (Author of <i>Curatæ</i> , &c.) ...	1800
Cuthell, J., Bookseller (Five parts)	1827	Pellet, Thomas, M.D. ...	1744
Dent, John, Esq. (Duplicates) ...	1825	Penrhyn, Lord ...	1809
Denyer, Elizabeth D. (Early English Bibles, &c. ...	1824	Petit, J. Lewis, M.D., F.R.S. ...	1786
D'Eon, la Chevalière ...	1793	Porson, Richard (Greek Professor)	1809
Disney, John, D.D. (with <i>Hollis</i>)	1817	Portal, C. S. ...	1816
Dunster, Revd. Charles. Part 1.	1811	Queensbury, Duke of ...	1805
" " " Part 2.	1815	Radcliffe, W., <i>Rouge Croix</i> (Heraldic and Historical Books and MSS.) ...	1828
" " " Part 3.	1816	Raine, Matthew, D.D., F.R.S., &c.) ...	1812
Fauntleroy, Henry (The Banker)	1825	Rawlinson, Richard ...	1756
Folkes, Martin, Esq. ...	1756	Rhodes, W. B. (<i>Bibliotheca Dramatica</i>) ...	1825
Frankland, Sir Thomas, Bart. ...	1747	Ritson, Joseph ...	1803
Gossett, Isaac, D.D., F.R.S. ...	1813	Rivington, C. and J. (Booksellers)	1827
Gough, Richard, F.S.A. ...	1810	Savage, Rev. George (Two parts)	1817
Halifax, Earl of ...	1806	Scott, Jonathan, LL.D. (Oriental)	1808
" (Diplomatic MSS.)	1806	Sebright, Sir John, Bart. (including Sir Roger Twysden's and E. Lhwyd's MSS.) ...	1807
Harington, Dr. (Music, Missals, MSS., &c.) ...	1816	Smith, Joseph (British Consul at Venice) ...	1773
Harwood, Edward, D.D. ...	1777	Spencer, Earl (Duplicates) ...	1798
Hayter, Thomas, D.D., Bishop of London ...	1757	" " ...	1800
Herbert, W. (Editor of <i>Ames</i>) ...	1796	" " ...	1802
Hollis, Thomas, and Th. Brand (with <i>Disney</i>) ...	1817	" " ...	1811
Hope, Henry P., Esq. ...	1813	Stanley, Colonel (Duplicates) ...	1812
Horsley, S., Bishop of St. Asaph's	1807	Stuart, Colonel J. A. ...	1814
Hunter, John, Esq. ...	1799	Talbot, Sir Charles, Bart. ...	1814
" " ...	1801	Talleyrand, Prince (<i>Bibliotheca Splendidissima</i>) ...	1816
" " ...	1808	Talleyrand, Prince (Tracts) ...	1817
" " ...	1813	Thorpe, John, Bookseller ...	1824
Inglis, John B. (Two parts) ...	1826	Thorpe, Thomas, Bookseller (Six parts) ...	1826
Ives, John, F.R.S. (<i>Suffolk Herald</i>) ...	1777	Toup, Rev. Jonathan ...	1786
King, Edward (Author of <i>Munimenta Antiqua</i> , &c.) ...	1808	Townshend, Marquis of ...	1812
Kippis, Andrew, D.D. ...	1795	Wakefield, Rev. Gilbert ...	1802
Lansdowne, Marquis of (Three parts) ...	1806	Weston, Rev. Charles (Prebendary of Durham) ...	1801
Lettsom, J. C., M.D. Part 1.	1811	Part 2.	1802
" " Part 2.	1816	Whitaker, Thomas D., LL.D. ...	1823
Littledale, A., Esq. ...	1820	Wilkes, John, M.P. ...	1802
Lloyd, Thomas (Heraldic MSS., &c.) ...	1828	Willett, Ralph (of Merly) ...	1813
Lunn, W. H., Bookseller (English Books) ...	1802	Wodhull, Michael (Duplicates) ...	1801
Lunn, W. H., Bookseller (Classics)	1811	" " ...	1803
MacCarthy, Count ...	1789	Wood, Robert (Editor of <i>Ruins of Palmyra</i> , &c.) ...	1772
Malone, Edmund ...	1818	Wynne, Edward, Esq. ...	1786
Mason, George. Part 1, 2, 3.	1798	York, H.R.H. Duke of ...	1827
" " Part 4.	1799		
" " Part 5.	1807		
Mayo, Charles, B.D. (A.S., Gothic, Icelandic, &c.) ...	1815		

F. NORGATE.

3ottings.

It may be well to remind Library Committees that *three-quarters of a million* will shortly be divided among the County Councils in aid of technical education, and that there is no reason why applications for appropriations should not be made to expend on works of a purely technical and scientific character.

Mr. Gladstone's visit to the Edinburgh Public Library is still providing valuable "copy" for paragraphists, and even the magazines work up articles out of the interesting event.

In *Murray's Magazine* the Edinburgh demand for fiction is compared with the average of England to the disparagement of the southron, whose reading is composed of 86 per cent. of fiction, while his northern brother confines himself to theology and "metapheesics," with a paltry excursion into fiction to the extent of 47 per cent. Such comparisons are not "odious" they are simply silly.

Has *Murray's* contributor endeavoured to discover the relative conditions of the libraries he is comparing? How the Edinburgh stock of fiction and especially of *three-volume* novels compares with the fiction stock of the older libraries, and the time allowed for reading by each institution whose returns he has dealt with? The Edinburgh library has Minerva-like sprung into existence completely armed—the older English libraries have *grown*. We know of some who still use the three-volume editions of even Scott's novels. We question if a single copy of these early editions exists in the Edinburgh library. But if John Robinson takes out *Ivanhoe* it is counted against him as three, while if Rabbie Thomson calls for the same book it is charged as *one*.

The Parliamentary Return of Places which have adopted the Acts down to March of 1890, moved for by Mr. Leng, M.P., has been issued. Are we to estimate the accuracy of Parliamentary papers on subjects we don't know, according to their correctness on matters we do know something of? If so, the result is melancholy, for here we have a blue book prepared with all the expensive machinery at the disposal of a government department, and upon which many months and much labour has been spent, and it simply bristles with errors. The information obtainable from *The Library Chronicle* and *The Library* would have given a more trustworthy result at the expense of a single clerk for a month!

A correspondent in the *South London Press*, waxing hot on the subject of Sunday opening, drops into poetry:—

Ye Sabbatarian hypocrites,
Who wants to hear ye preach?
The toiler wants *his* books to teach
Lessons of life to all and each—
Not hid in their cases out of reach
Through the worker's day, till the Monday morn,
When his weekly toil returns.

A correspondent writes :—"At the time when the present Keeper of the Printed Books at the British Museum composed his Latin reasons why a book could not be found, I was privileged to see them in MS., and amused myself by trying to put some of them into monkish verse. The attempt was not very successful, but I send a copy in case you think it would interest any readers of *The Library*."

*Certe librum hunc habemus,
Lector, sed quo tibi demus
Nullum modum nunc videmus;
Fata tot impediunt,
Nam ministri sapientes,
(Casum tuum ut deslentes,)
Librum undique quærentes
Invenire nequeunt.
Non ex hoc, o studiosus,
Fiam tibi odiosus,
Neque dicas, furiosus,
Scribam mox ad Tempora.
Vel ministri juniores,
Inter quos jucundiores
Alios putent, hunc, o mores,
Non relicta tessera,
Surpserunt; vel, locatus
Pluteo, innumerus,
Liber, sic desideratus,
Oculos elabitur;
Vel, ut dicunt, concinnatus,
Latet ita mutilatus
Ut, et matri e qua natus,
Sit incognoscibilis.
Tales casus valde flemus;
Multos sed libros habemus;
Alium roga; tum dicemus
"Ecce vir placabilis."*



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

List of Places where the Public Libraries Acts have been adopted, with Dates of Adoption.

Aberdeen (1884)	Chiswick (1890)	Hindley (1885)
Aberystwith (1872)	Clitheroe (1878)	Hucknall - Torkard (1884)
Airdrie (1856)	Coleraine (1881) not put in force	Inverness (1877)
Alloa (1885)	Cork (1855) not put in force	Ipswich (1853)
Altrincham (1889)	Coventry (1867)	Kidderminster (1855)
Alverstoke (1890)	Croydon (1888)	Kingston-on-Thames (1881)
Ashton - under - Lyne (1869)	Darlaston (1876)	Kingstown (1884)
Aston Manor (1877)	Darlington (1883)	Kirkwall (1890)
Ayr (1890)	Darwen, Over (1871)	Leamington (1856)
Bangor (1871)	Denton and Haughton (1887)	Leeds (1868)
Barking (1888)	Derby (1871)	Leek (1888)
Barnsley (1890)	Devonport (1880)	Leicester (1848)
Barrow - in - Furness (1881)	Dewsbury (1887)	Leominster (1889)
Bedford (1889)	Doncaster (1868)	Lichfield (1856)
Belfast (1882)	Douglas, I. of Man (1886) Local Act	Limerick (1889)
Bideford (1877)	Dublin (1877)	Liverpool (1852)
Bilston (1870)	Dudley (1878)	London, County of— Battersea (1887)
Bingley (1890)	Dumbarton (1881)	Bermondsey (1887)
Birkenhead (1856)	Dundalk (1856)	Camberwell (1889)
Birmingham (1860)	Dundee (1866)	Chelsea (1887)
Blackburn (1850)	Dunfermline (1880)	Christchurch, South- wark (1889)
Blackpool (1879)	Ealing (1883)	Clapham (1887)
Bolton (1852)	Edinburgh (1886)	Clerkenwell (1887)
Bootle (1883)	Exeter (1865)	Dulwich (1889)
Bradford (1872)	Fleetwood (1887)	Fulham (1886)
Brechin (1890)	Folkestone (1878)	Hammersmith (1887)
Brentford (1889)	Forfar (1870)	Kensington (1887)
Bridgwater (1860)	Galashiels (1872)	Lambeth (1886)
Brierley Hill (1875)	Gateshead - on - Tyne (1880)	Lewisham (1890)
Brighton (1872) Local Act	Glossop (1888)	Newington (1890)
Bristol (1876) [Act Broughton (Salford) 1889	Gosport (1886)	Poplar (1890)
Burslem (1863)	Grangemouth (1887)	Putney (1887)
Buxton (1886)	Halifax (1881)	Rotherhithe (1887)
Cambridge (1853)	Handsworth (1876)	St. George, Hanover Square (1890)
Canterbury (1858)	Hanley (1886)	St. Margaret and St. John, Westmin- ster (1856)
Cardiff (1860)	Harrogate (1886)	St. Martin-in-the- Fields (1887)
Carlisle (1890)	Hawick (1878)	West Ham (1890)
Carlton (1887)	Hereford (1872)	
Carnarvon (1887)	Hertford (1855)	
Cheltenham (1883)	Heywood (1874)	
Chester (1874)	Hinckley (1888)	
Chesterfield (1875)		

Stoke Newington (1890)	Plymouth (1871)	Sunderland (Local Act)
Streatham (1889)	Pontypridd	Swansea (1870)
Wandsworth (1883)	Poole (1885)	Tamworth (1881)
Whitechapel (1889)	Portsmouth (1878)	Tarves (1884)
Loughborough (1885)	Preston (1878)	Thurso (1872)
Macclesfield (1874)	Rathmines and Rathgar (1887)	Tipton (1883)
Maidstone (1855)	Richmond, Surrey (1879)	Todmorden
Manchester (1852)	Reading (1877)	Tonbridge (1882)
Mansfield (1890)	Rochdale (1870)	Truro (1885)
Middlesbrough (1870)	Rotherham (1876)	Tunstall (1885)
Middleton (1887)	Rugby (1890)	Twickenham (1882)
Middlewich (1889)	Runcorn (1881)	Tynemouth (1869)
Millom	St. Albans (1878)	Walsall (1857)
Moss Side (1887)	St. Helens, Lancs. (1869)	Warrington (1847)
Nantwich (1887)	Sale (1890)	Warwick (1865)
Nelson (1889)	Salford (1849)	Watford (1871)
Newark-on-Trent (1881)	Salisbury (1890)	Wednesbury (1876)
Newcastle-on-Tyne (1874)	Selkirk (1889)	Welshpool (1887)
Newcastle-under-Lyme (1883)	Sheffield (1853)	Weston - super - Mare (1886)
Newport, Mon. (1870)	Sittingbourne (1887)	West Bromwich (1870)
Newton Heath (1887)	Shrewsbury (1883)	West Ham (1890)
Northampton (1876)	Sligo (1866)	Whitehaven (1887)
Northwich (1883)	Smethwick (1876)	Wick (1887)
Norwich (1850)	South Shields (1871)	Widnes (1886)
Nottingham (1867)	Southampton (1887)	Wigan (1876)
Oldbury (1888)	Southport (1875)	Willenhall (1874)
Oldham (Local Act)	Stafford (1879)	Wimbledon (1883)
Oswestry (1890)	Stalybridge (1888)	Winchester (1851)
Oxford (1855)	Stockport (1861)	Winsford (1887)
Paisley (1867)	Stockton-on-Tees (1874)	Wolverhampton (1869)
Penrith (1881)	Stoke-upon-Trent (1875)	Woolton (1890)
Peterhead (1890)		Worcester (1879)
		Workington
		Wrexham (1878)
		Yarmouth, Great (1885)

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Die deutschen Bücherzeichen (Ex-Libris) von ihrem Ursprunge bis zur Gegenwart. Von F. Warnecke. Mit... 21. Abbildungen im Text und 26 Tafeln. Berlin, 1890. Verlag von J. A. Stargardt. 8vo. pp. 255.

Les Ex-Libris et les Marques de Possession du Livre. Par Henri Bouchot du Cabinet des Estampes. Paris, Bibliothèque des Connaissances utiles aux Amis des Livres, Edouard Rouveyre, éditeur, 1891. (Nov., 1890.) 8vo. pp. 104. 6 francs.

Of the two books before us Herr Warnecke's was the first published and also claims prior attention on account of its greater size. It consists mainly of a descriptive list of some hundreds of German book-plates, arranged in the alphabetical order of their owner's names, prefaced by a brief history of the book-plate, especially in Germany where it was first used. The volume is completed by a list of designers and engravers and

by twenty-six plates, each containing facsimiles of one or more book-plates of interest, either on their own account, or, as in the case of Goethe, from the reputation of their owners. The alphabetical list, which occupies the greater part of the book, appears to us of rather doubtful value. For amateurs interested in the development of the book-plate, a chronological arrangement would have been preferable; for ordinary collectors, a heraldic order would have helped towards the identification of unknown plates; and, certainly, to the present arrangement the addition of an heraldic index, on the plan of that in Guigard's *Armorial*, is almost a necessity. The list, as it stands, is useful for verifying knowledge already gained, but for very little else. Herr Warnecke's introduction, though not very long, is of considerable interest. He alludes briefly, as to precursors of the book-plate proper, to the portrait of the Emperor Frederick I. in a work dedicated to him in 1188, now preserved in the Vatican Library; and also to the coats-of-arms painted in many Italian manuscripts in the first half of the fourteenth century as a mark of ownership. The oldest printed book-plate found in a book in its proper place appears to be a small painted woodcut of an angel holding a shield, on which is displayed a black ox with a silver ring passed through his nose. This book-plate was long assigned to the Abbey of Ochsenhausen in Swabia, but Herr Warnecke shows that the arms really belonged to Hildebrand Brandenburg aus Biberach, by whom the volume was presented to the Carthusian Monastery of Buxhain in Memmingen. The probable date of the plate is about 1480, and another, the property of Willem de Zell, also a benefactor to the Monastery, is assigned to about the same period. Earlier than either of these, but deserving of less honour because divorced from its true position, is a book-plate belonging to a certain Johannes Knabensperg *alias* Iglér, found in the binder's waste of an undated *Vocabularium incipiens teutonico ante latinum*. It is unfortunately coloured, but is apparently printed from a block, and represents a brown hedgehog trampling over ground strewn with leaves, and with a flower in its mouth. Above the hedgehog is the legend, "*Hans igler das dich ein igel kuss*," meaning, we presume, that to the stealer of his book Hans Iglér's kiss would be as sharp as a hedgehog's. Herr Warnecke assigns this book-plate to about 1450, putting the book in which it was found, rather vaguely, as "some ten years later." It figures as the first of his illustrations, all of which are interesting, though few possess much real beauty. In his list, however, of designers and engravers we note the names of Jost Amman, Albert Durer, Holbein and Lucas Cranach, though the attributions do not appear to be always made with certainty.

M. Bouchot's little book is a work of far less labour than Herr Warnecke's, but to the humbler sort of amateur it is likely to be both more useful and more pleasing. It is charmingly printed, sufficiently illustrated and pleasantly written. M. Bouchot has no respect for bookplates, though he writes about them, and as for the collectors of them it is with difficulty he restrains the expression of his lofty scorn. The collection in sixty volumes in the *Bibliothèque Nationale* reminds him of nothing but the tombs in a cemetery, and towards the end of his work he even launches a comparison of their collectors to the amassers of postage stamps (a wholly inferior class of person) which no lover of bookplates will easily forgive. Yet there is something noble in this scorn. Grollier never used a bookplate, nor did Maioli, nor De Thou, nor any of the greatest French or Italian book lovers. These princes of the book-world stamped their arms and their mottoes in gold on the bindings of their books, and this M. Bouchot hints is the proper course for a gentleman to pursue. Bookplates, bits of paper affixed with paste or gum, are the

expedients of the indigent, and have exercised a most demoralising influence, causing petty lawyers and scholars, with no arms of their own, to appropriate those of their betters. M. Bouchot, though acquainted with Herr Warnecke's book, does not follow him in his antiquarian researches, but is content to start with the first dated bookplates, in Germany that of Bilibaldus Pirckheimer (1511) attributed to Albert Durer, in France that of Charles d'Alboise, in England that of Sir Nicholas Bacon, both dated 1574.¹ Starting from these he gives a brief history of the variations of taste during each of the four centuries to the present day, and winds up his volume with some notes on the best arrangement of a collection of bookplates (if they must be collected!) and some advice to book-owners who have set their hearts on having a bookplate of their own. The whole volume is pleasantly and chattily written, and possesses one virtue, rare in French works, a considerable acquaintance with the standard authorities on the subject not only in Germany but in England.

Catalogue of the Books, Pamphlets, and Manuscripts belonging to the Huguenot Society of America, deposited in the Library of Columbia College, with an Introduction by the Library Committee of the Society. Compiled by Elizabeth G. Baldwin. Published by the Society, New York, 1890. Roy. 8vo, pp. x., 107.

This volume (an excellent specimen of American typography) represents, as the introduction informs us, the "first catalogue" of the Library of the Society whose name it bears, and we sincerely trust that it may be followed by many future editions of increasing bulk and equally attractive appearance. The Library Committee of the Society have entered on their labours in that true spirit of progress which should animate all Librarians, but we fear it will be long indeed before they are able to realize their hope and expectation that the collection under their charge will "become, in course of years, the best and most complete Library of its kind in the civilized world." Both time and a combination of many other requisites are needed to enable any such special collection to be brought together as may rival (to surpass is perhaps impossible) the splendid Library of MSS. and printed books originally formed by Baron Fernand de Schickler, presented by him to the Société de l'Histoire du Protestantisme Français, and constantly receiving accessions under the care of its indefatigable *Bibliothécaire*, M. Weiss. At present the Library of the Huguenot Society of America consists of 494 volumes (including 43 MSS. and autograph letters) arranged in 15 classes lettered A-O, in addition to which there is a separate pamphlet class containing 163 articles. In the catalogue the books are first entered under the subjects to which the above class-lettering refers, and afterwards appear in one general alphabetical "Author-Index," the Library press-mark being printed opposite each entry in both cases. It is always difficult to say where the division and sub-division of a Library into subjects should end, but in a small collection like that to which this catalogue applies it seems needlessly minute to adopt three such classes as "Description and Travel," "Literature," and "Miscellaneous," when they contain together only 27 volumes, many of which might, with equal propriety, have been made to fall under other headings. Thus it is not

¹ We must not rob a discoverer of his priority of publication, but we may mention that a recent lucky find of Mr. Weale's in the Bodleian takes the first dated English book plate more than half a century further back.

very apparent why the *Médailles sur les principaux événements du règne de Louis le Grand; avec des explications historiques*, printed by the Académie Royale des Médailles et des Inscriptions, should be entered under "Miscellaneous" instead of under "French History" or "Societies"; or why *Annals of the Cakchiquels* (in curious proximity to which are Lucan's *Pharsalia* and a translation of the *Heautontimorumenos* of Terence) should be considered as belonging to "Literature" more properly than to "American History." But, doubtless, as the Library grows the need of such refinements will become more obvious. At the end of the catalogue is an appendix of "fifteen ancient and priceless volumes from La Rochelle," and we can imagine the delight of the fair compiler on receiving them just in time for insertion. It is a pity, however, that her haste and enthusiasm have so carried her away that "the gift are (*sic*) entered" with so many errors in the preliminary announcement. Only one of these "La Rochelle books" was printed at that place, and of the 15 "ancient" volumes three were published within the last 25 years, whilst the epithet "priceless" cannot, except in some wild flight of imagination, be applied to any of the number. We consequently feel somewhat disappointed in these concluding pages which bade so fair to treat us to an account of treasures hitherto nearly, if not quite, unknown. Such treasures, however, will no doubt find their way into the Library before the next issue of the generally admirable catalogue, and for so happy an increase of the collection we venture to express not only our hearty good wishes, but our confidence in their realization. Meanwhile we are curious to learn whether the present edition is correct as regards the entry in the appendix of a polyglott New Testament, *Nouveau Testament, texte grec, Vulgate et traduction latine*. . . . Londres, *Loselerius Villerius*, 1574. Was this actually printed by Villerius, and not rather by Vautrollier, who in that and the few following years was printing Testaments to which De Loyseleur Villerius furnished the dedications?

Catalogo di Manoscritti Italiani esistenti nel Museo Britannico di Londra. [By] Alessandro Palma di Cesnola, F.S.A., Torino: Tipografia L. Roux e C., 1890. 8vo, pp. 2c8.

Signor Palma di Cesnola's hand-list—for it is little more—of the manuscripts relating to Italy in the British Museum, is good as far as it goes, but might so easily have been made better that we can only praise it rather grudgingly. He has divided his entries under the eight heads of Illuminated MSS., History, Poetry, Music, Design, War, Diplomacy and Miscellanea, but in only one of these (Music), are the entries arranged in any systematic order. In the rest the Museum press marks determine the arrangement. When we have added that there is no index either of authors or of subjects, it will be seen that though this catalogue may serve as a starting point for future labourers it cannot be considered very satisfactory in itself. In eight appendices, occupying nearly half his volume, Signor Palma di Cesnola gives a series of interesting extracts from manuscripts relating to Michel Angelo, Savonarola, Beatrice Cenci and other notable Italians, and these will doubtless serve to whet the appetite of his countrymen, and encourage further work on the Museum MSS.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be promptly forwarded.

ALTRINCHAM.—At the monthly meeting of the Altrincham Local Board on December 5th, a recommendation of the Public Libraries' Committee, that the board accept the offer of the directors of the Literary Institution to hand it over to the local board on condition of providing additional books and adapting the present building to the proposed purpose, was confirmed. It was understood that the amount required, about £1,700, would be defrayed by public subscription.

BLACKBURN.—The late Mr. Thomas Atkinson, solicitor, Blackburn, has left his large and valuable library and costly collection of paintings to the Public Library of this town.

BRADFORD.—On Tuesday, the 9th December, the Bradford Town Council discussed the desirability of applying for Parliamentary power to levy a rate of an additional penny in the pound for Library and Museum purposes. Mr. Councillor Maddocks, Chairman of the Free Library and Museum Committee, introduced the subject in a very able speech, in which he drew attention to the almost starving condition of the institution. The matter was adjourned for further consideration in order to allow the public an opportunity of expressing their views on the subject. The sum of £500 was voted from the gas profits to meet the immediate necessities of the Committee.

CARDIFF.—The Library Committee have adopted a plan for their new Library Buildings, the estimated cost of which will be £15,000, or £5,000 more than the borrowing powers asked for. As £400 a year will be saved by the separation of the Art Schools from the Library, the Committee have decided to apply for power to borrow an additional £5,000.

COLCHESTER.—The late Mr. Richard Catchpool, of Reading, has bequeathed one thousand pounds towards the establishment of a Public Library in Colchester, his native town.

EDINBURGH.—*The Building News* of December 12th gives sketches of some of the principal features of the new library buildings. In a city of beautiful buildings, the newest of its public buildings need not hide its head, for the architect, Mr. G. Washington Browne, has succeeded in happily combining an artistic exterior with a useful interior—by no means a common achievement so far as library buildings are concerned.

GLASGOW.—The annual report of the Baillie's Institution Free Library shows that 40,479 vols. were issued, being 40,479 vols. more than during the preceding year. The attendance of readers is reported as 29,420—7,807 more than last reported. Income £687. Mr. E. A. Holme Kay is librarian.

GUERNSEY.—*The Gentlewoman* says:—"There are two Free Libraries at St. Peter Port. The newest, which was opened but a couple of years

ago, is in the ground floor of a neat little house standing in its own grounds. The Librarian inhabits the upper floor. No more peaceful and charming reading rooms could be desired than these, which the munificence of Mr. Priaulx has given to the town. One gazes out of the windows over green lawns and trees on to the twinkling Channel, and the sunlight creeps in to fall on oak and leather, vellum and morocco. Strangely enough, the inhabitants of the place rarely patronise the retreat, preferring, if they use a library at all, to go to the fine one near the Town Church, built and endowed by two Guernsey gentlemen who made their fortunes in America."

HANLEY.—A draper's assistant, a Polish Jew, rejoicing in the name of Baron Rosenberg, was charged before the magistrates and fined 40s. and costs for wantonly damaging books he had borrowed from the public library. He seems to have been a diligent reader, or, at any rate, borrower of books, but for some unaccountable reason always returned them in a dilapidated condition.

HULL.—In connection with the James Reckitt Free Public Library in East Hull, Mr. F. B. Grotrian, M.P., opened in November the new Reference Library, presented by Mr. Francis Reckitt.

HUNTINGDON.—A new library for the Archdeaconry of Huntingdon was opened at Huntingdon in November by the Bishop of Ely. The books are chiefly theological and were formerly in the old Episcopal Library at Buckden; to these, however, some modern books have been added.

LEICESTER.—People who never heard of the Library Association are enjoying pleasure and information resulting from the Reading Meeting. Last month we noticed Mr. Butler Woods' excellent article in a Sheffield paper describing his visit to Eversley, and we now find that the same excursion has inspired another member of the Association to deliver a highly interesting lecture, entitled "At Kingsley's Grave." The lecturer was Mr. F. S. Herne, Librarian of the Permanent Library, who on November 15th "chained the attention of a large and appreciative audience" while he discoursed on Kingsley's life and work. This is as it should be.

A resolution in favour of Sunday opening has been carried by the Library Committee.

LIVERPOOL.—At the instance of the Sunday Society the Library Committee recently resolved by seven votes to four to recommend the opening of the library on Sunday afternoons. The city council at a subsequent meeting refused to adopt the recommendation.

LONDON.—The Dr. Williams' Library has just been opened again for the use of readers after removal of the books from their former quarters in Grafton Street, into University Hall, Gordon Square.

LONDON.—Sunday School Union Library. The report of the year's work (1889) states that the number of members is 1,327. The volumes issued for home reading reached a total of 17,227. According to the new catalogue the library contains 1,486 volumes for reference and 7,226 for circulation.

LONDON: ALLAN LIBRARY.—The *Methodist Recorder* announces that the library, consisting of 30,000 books and pamphlets, is now transferred to a large, lofty, and handsome room, close to City Road Chapel. Mr. Hayes, the sub-librarian, has been working for years at the classification and cataloguing of Mr. Allan's splendid gift. To his care has also been

transferred the libraries of the late Dr. Rule and the Rev. W. M. Bunting, together with valuable books presented by Mrs. Jobson, Mr. W. Foster Newton, and other friends. The Fernley trustees have made a grant of £200 for the purchase of modern books. The library in its completeness will rank among the best libraries of the kind in the country. The Rev. George Kenyon has offered his services as Honorary Librarian. The library will be opened at the Methodist Centenary this year.

LONDON : BERMONDSEY.—On the 29th ult. Mr. Lafone, M.P., laid the foundation-stone of the Public Library, which is to cost about £7,000. The idea of establishing a Public Library in the parish was first mooted in 1887, and subsequently a requisition was served on the overseers of the poor, with the result that the Acts were adopted by a majority of over 1,900 votes at the poll. Commissioners were soon afterwards appointed, and they intend to make the new library one of the most complete in London. The space to be allotted for books in the new building is said to be sufficient for 80,000 volumes.

LONDON : CHELSEA.—The new Central Library will be opened by Lord Privy Seal, the Earl Cadogan, on Wednesday, January 21st.

LONDON : HIGHGATE.—On November 19th Sir James Clarke Lawrence presided at a public meeting held for the purpose of opening the Highgate Hill, Dartmouth Park Hill, and Upper Holloway Free Reading Room and Free Library, adjoining the Highgate Hill Unitarian Church and the Whittington Board School. The movement of which this library is the outcome was initiated by the Rev. R. Spears, minister of the Unitarian Church, and was warmly taken up by the members of his congregation; but the library is to be open to all, and no religious or political character will be given to the institution, which is situated in a thickly-populated district. Several hundred books have already been presented to the library, and on the tables of the reading room over 150 daily, weekly, and monthly papers, magazines, and reviews will be provided. Sir J. C. Lawrence, who had contributed a large number of books to the library, and who was accompanied by Lady Lawrence, in declaring the Library open, remarked that the opening of a Free Library was at any time worthy of record, for the opening of every new Public Library gave fresh light, fresh knowledge, and fresh power to the people. No one could tell where the influence of good books began or where it ended. In the study of good books was to be found, in a great measure, the formation of the life and character of the young. The other speakers included the Rev. R. Spears, the Rev. E. H. Roberts (Church of England minister and chaplain of the Islington Workhouse and Infirmary), and Mr. Withall; and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

LONDON : LEWISHAM.—The Public Libraries Commissioners and the ratepayers have received from Mr. J. Harding, an offer to transfer to them the freehold of the Perry Hill Lecture Hall and Library on payment of two bills of costs, not exceeding £150; he will also make them a free gift of the library, containing four thousand volumes, and of the fixtures, &c. Steps will be taken almost immediately with a view to opening this library at an early date, and it will be followed, as soon as possible, by the establishment of libraries in other parts of the parish.

LONDON : POPLAR.—The result of the poll in the parish of All Saints, Poplar, on the question of the adoption of the Public Libraries Act was declared on Wednesday night, December 17th, as follows:—For the adoption of the Act, 3,301; against, 314; majority for, 2,987.

LONDON : WANDSWORTH.—*The Builder*, December 12th, publishes drawings of the new Reading Room and a description of the building.

LOWESTOFT.—The Mayor of Lowestoft has started a subscription towards the establishment of a free public library.

MAIDSTONE.—The lending library in connection with the Maidstone Museum was opened on November 1st.

MANCHESTER.—On December 9th Mr. H. Calder Marshall, A.C.A., of London, delivered a lecture before the Manchester Chartered Accountants' Students' Society on "The Public Libraries of London, their Histories and Accounts," in which he gave some interesting particulars of the free public libraries of the metropolis, especially those established within recent years.

MIDDLESBOROUGH.—The Library Committee have resolved to discontinue the Durham Street Branch and to devote the money thus saved (£160 per annum) to the improvement of the Central Library and Museum.

OLDHAM.—The Saturday night lectures are largely attended. On December 6th about seven hundred persons met to hear Mr. J. Potter Briscoe's lecture on "Bells, Belfries, and Bell-ringers."

OXFORD.—The Committee of the Free Public Library are appealing to the public for gifts, books, pamphlets, maps, prints, or other objects of local interest. They wish to form a local collection, and as their resources are too narrow to admit of large purchases for such a purpose, they must look to outside help. We wish them every success. There are few public or private collections which do not contain something little valued by the owners which would be highly esteemed if given to the principal library of the locality to which it belongs. The Oxford library is now opened on Sunday evenings.

PETERBOROUGH.—A representative meeting, called by Dr. Walker, was held in November for the purpose of considering the provision of a free public library for the city, and a committee was appointed with the object of raising subscriptions and considering further procedure.

PONTYPRIDD.—On the 27th ult. the Public Library was opened by Mrs. D. W. Williams, Fairfield. The building, which was erected at a cost of £2,000, from designs by Messrs. Potts, Sulman, and Hennings, of London, is situated in Gelliwastad Grove.

PORTSMOUTH.—The opening of the new Town Hall took place in August, and on the 5th November the Free Public Library, which had been temporarily housed at Southsea, was removed to the fine quarters assigned to it in the new building. The formal opening was performed by the Mayor of Portsmouth, Sir William David King, the Library Committee, with Mr. Tweed D. A. Jewers, being present. Mr. Ward, Chairman of the Committee, expatiated on the great advantages which the institution conferred on the inhabitants of Portsmouth, especially the rising generation. In paying a well deserved compliment to their excellent librarian, Mr. Jewers, he said that starting six years ago with about 3,000 volumes, the shelves now contained nearly 30,000. The Library proper measures 60 feet by 30 feet, and the Reading Rooms (General, Ladies' and Reference) are furnished most comfortably with every convenience. The whole building is brilliantly lighted by electricity.

SALFORD.—The Salford Corporation has purchased a commodious building at Broughton for the purpose of converting it into a Free Library for that part of the borough.

SALISBURY.—The new Free Public Library was opened on Wednesday, December 10th by the Right Hon. Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff, G.C.S.I., F.C., F.R.S., president of the Royal Geographical

Society, and formerly Governor of Madras. The Mayor and Corporation, the Bishop, the Dean and the Member for the Borough, Mr. Edward H. Hulse, and a large gathering were present. Temporary premises have been secured in Endless Street until a permanent building is erected. The reading room and reference library are now open for use, and the circulating department will be opened early in the new year. Mr. George Walter Atkinson, who for the last eight years has been assistant librarian at the Rotherham Free Public Library, has been appointed librarian.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—A meeting, convened by the Rev. R. S. de Courcy Laffan, head master of the Stratford-on-Avon Grammar School, was held in the large room of that historic building on November 18th to consider the question of establishing a Free Public Library for Stratford. There was a large and representative audience, and Mr. Laffan presided. He said he thought there was a widespread feeling in favour of a free library as essential to the life of a town such as Stratford. The Rev. F. J. Fry, the Rev. J. Pugh, and other speakers took part in the subsequent discussion. Mr. Pugh thought it was a reproach to the town of Shakespeare that it did not possess a free library. Ultimately Mr. H. Halton proposed "That this meeting is of opinion that the Free Libraries Act should be adopted in Stratford-on-Avon." The Rev. F. J. Fry seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Smallwood said he did not think the £150, which would be produced by the 1d. rate sanctioned by the Acts, would be sufficient to maintain the library. It would be necessary to obtain voluntary contributions, and he promised to assist. An influential committee was afterwards appointed to take steps to carry out the resolution.

ST. KILDA.—A great many of the volumes of the library presented to the inhabitants of St. Kilda have been found "unsuitable" by the islanders, and a great quantity of literature, chiefly novels, was found strewn about by a party who visited the place recently. Among the volumes retained are some thirteen of Plymouth Brethren literature.

TIPTON.—On December 9th two news-rooms were opened, one at Horseley Heath and the other at Toll End, for the establishment and present maintenance, of which the sum of £250 has been voted out of the profits of the gas undertaking. It is intended to open three others as soon as suitable premises can be secured. The ceremony on the 9th was performed by the Hon. P. Stanhope, M.P., who promised a donation of 100 guineas to the fund. A luncheon followed.

The Syndics of the Cambridge University Press have recommended that copies of certain books printed at the University Press be granted to the Bradford Free Library and Art Museum and to the following Free Public Libraries:—Brentford, Croydon, Putney, Rotherhithe, Southampton, and the Atkinson Free Library, Southport.

NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—The third meeting of this active local association was held at the Free Public Library, Leicester, on Thursday, December 11th. The members were heartily welcomed by Alderman Stevenson, Chairman of the Free Public Libraries, and Mr. J. D. Paul, F.G.S., Chairman of the Permanent Library. The party, under the direction of Mr. Herne, visited the Town and Permanent Libraries, the Roman pavement, the Jewry Wall, and the Museum, and after tea the association resumed its sittings. The President, Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, took the chair and delivered a short address. Mr. Herne followed with an interesting paper on "The Leicester Town (not Free Public) Library," and Mr. Radford with one on

"Libraries and Librarians." Discussions of a practical character followed the reading of these papers. Mr. Briscoe gave an outline of his scheme for the "half-hour talks with the people about books and book writers," which is in successful operation at the branch libraries and reading rooms in Nottingham. The idea was heartily approved and will, no doubt, be worked out in the North Midland District. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Nottingham about February 5th. Votes of thanks for the use of the meeting room, to the authors of the papers, and to Messrs. Herne and Kirkby for making the local arrangements, brought a very successful meeting to a close.

THE paper on the "Ventilation, Heating and Lighting of Libraries," by Mr. Wm. H. Greenhough, of Reading, read at the last annual meeting, has attracted a good deal of attention from the press as the subject doubtless deserved. Besides many brief notices of it in the London and provincial press, it was published in the columns of the *Journal of Gas Lighting and Sanitary Improvement* on the 14th and 21st of October; it formed the subject of a lengthy article in the *Building News* of the 31st October; of a short article in the *Lancet* of the 27th September; and was the object of a long review in the *British Medical Journal* of the 22nd of November.

FOREIGN.

NEW ZEALAND.—It is encouraging to find that much good library work is being done in New Zealand. We are indebted to a correspondent for the following most interesting notes:—WELLINGTON.—On the 23rd September, 1889, Mr. W. H. Levin offered £1,000 towards the establishment of a free library, on the understanding that some portion of the building should be erected before the 31st of December, 1890—New Zealand's Jubilee Year. The proposition was enthusiastically taken up, and a sum of over £3,000 has now been promised. The City Council is about to proceed to take a poll of the ratepayers for or against the Libraries Act being adopted. It is hoped that before the end of the year the library will be an accomplished fact. PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY.—The librarian, Mr. Collier, having resigned through ill health, applications for the post were invited, and the Hon. J. W. Fortescue, B.A., was appointed. Great opposition was however offered by a section of Parliament to voting a librarian's salary, consequently Mr. Fortescue immediately sent in his resignation. The position will now remain vacant until Parliament again meets, the two assistant librarians carrying on in the meantime. DUNEDIN.—A Free Library Association has been formed here for the purpose of devising means for the establishment of a free library. Great enthusiasm is being shown. NAPIER.—At the annual meeting, held on 23rd July, greater interest was shown in the affairs of the institution than has hitherto been the case, and an energetic committee was elected. WANGANUI.—The late Mr. Thomas Reid, at one time a merchant here, bequeathed £200 to the funds of the library. TURAKINA.—The annual meeting was held on 15th August; the balance sheet showed cash in hand, £2 10s., liabilities *nil*. It was decided to give a series of entertainments in aid of the funds. BULLS.—The Town Board has decided to subsidise the library, consequently this really first-class institution will be more attractive than ever.

Library Catalogues.

Corporation of Birmingham. Free Libraries Reference Department. Catalogue of Books. Shaler to Zurlauben. 1890. 4to, pp. 1079-1284.

The present part completes this important catalogue, of which the first instalment appeared in 1883. Over 104,000 volumes have been catalogued,

and for conciseness we consider it a model. Nearly every entry is stated in a single line. This rather difficult feat is managed by using a smaller type for second, or subsidiary "titles" where such are required. The separation of books from pamphlets in long subject entries entails the consultation of two alphabets. If space was the reason for the division, both books and pamphlets might very well have been in the small type used for the pamphlets. This distinction, though not an uncommon one, is arbitrary, and implies that because a writer's message to his fellow-men has been compressed into few pages, therefore it is less worthy of honour than that of the author who burdens our library shelves with his ponderous volumes. If 8vo and 4to are correct, why not 12° in place of duo, which is used for all sizes under octavo? The repetition of the author's name or subject at the beginning of the lines becomes painful when we have half a page of it. No use is made of a bar unless to indicate another edition or the atlas of a work. But, take it all in all, the catalogue is a most useful one, and the compiler no doubt has excellent reasons for the peculiarities noticed above.

Catalogue of the Library, Forest School, Walthamstow. 1890. 8vo, pp. 37.

A well compiled catalogue on the dictionary plan, printed in double column, with the authors' surnames in a clarendon letter when used as entries. The librarian is Mr. L. M. Hawkins.

The James Reckitt Public Library for Eastern Hull. Catalogue of the Reference Library. 1890. Cr. 8vo, pp. xii., 62.

This catalogue is the result of a gift from Francis Reckitt, Esq., of £500, which has been expended in purchasing a very good selection of useful works of reference. Mr. Richard Hargreaves, the librarian, has produced a creditable catalogue on the dictionary plan, printed in full measure, with the authors' names in a bold type, which readily distinguishes entries under authors from the subject and title entries, which are printed in ordinary type.

Smethwick Free Library. Catalogue of the Books in the Lending and Reference Departments. 1889. Cr. 8vo, pp. vi., 204.

A neat little list compiled on the dictionary plan, printed in full measure in a readable type. Much space is wasted by giving a line to each volume of long files of periodicals for no other purpose than to state the indicator number. A smaller type might have been used to advantage in places where contents of collected essays are set out. The compilation reflects credit on Mr. Joseph Bailey, the librarian.

Bradford Public Free Libraries. Supplementary Catalogue of the Central Lending Library. Third Edition . . . June, 1890.

This is a novel catalogue in two respects—in form of page and in the method of arrangement. The page is long and narrow, and the books are entered under author, title, and subject in class divisions. The catalogue is well and accurately printed, but it is compiled regardless of some of the first principles of cataloguing, and requires editing. The compiler has overlooked, or is ignorant of, the real names of several well-known writers of fiction, although he professes to record the real as well as the assumed names of authors.

Abstract of Public Library Reports.

FOR PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT, SEE TABLE, PAGE 32.

[In these abstracts no mention has been made of Art Galleries or Museums, or Classes of any kind in connection with the Public Libraries.]

BIRKENHEAD: Librarian, WILLIAM MAY.—161,748 volumes issued for home reading, being the actual largest number ever issued in one year. The new departure of spreading information about the library by means of the "Circular of Information" (*The Library*, Sup., May, 1890) has been very satisfactory. The plan has been widely copied both at home and abroad. The Committee have secured 46 original water-colour drawings of places in Birkenhead and neighbourhood by the late W. Herdman, and in addition to these the Cheshire collection has been increased. Regret expressed at the death of Mr. Francis Thornely, J.P. Balance in hand at end of year, £205.

BRADFORD, YORKS: Librarian, BUTLER WOOD.—Attention is drawn to a few details for the purpose of comparison. In 1872 Central Libraries issued 85,852 volumes; in 1889-90, 258,611 volumes. Visits to Central Newsrooms in 1872 amounted to 260,300; according to the turnstiles the past year's visits amounted to 958,330. But it is not stated whether the turnstiles are at the entrance of the newsroom only, or whether every visitor to newsroom and libraries passes through them. In 1875 five branch libraries established; now there are eight, with an issue of 258,312 volumes. Deep regret expressed at the death of Mr. Ald. G. P. Beaumont, Chairman from 1881 to the present year, and of resignation of the Deputy Chairman, Mr. Councillor W. Priestman. Supplementary catalogue of Central Lending issued. Nearly all the branches show a decrease, probably owing to so few new books having been added. It has been decided to light the whole of the premises by electricity.

BRISTOL: Librarian, JOHN TAYLOR.—The Bristol Public Free Libraries' Committee do not print an annual report, but issue a filled-in form yearly. From a copy of this return we gather that there is a central lending and reference library, and a magazine and news-room, and five branch lending libraries and reading rooms, but no statement appears respecting the stock of books therein. The daily average issues from the lending libraries during the year were 1,412 volumes, and 739 in the reading rooms. The aggregate issue was 634,603 volumes. The stock was turned over nearly nine times, so that the total stock is about 70,000 volumes. There were 1,552,275 visits to the news-rooms. The issues were slightly less than in 1888, and the visitors were 78,450 in excess.

BOLTON: Librarian, JAMES K. WAITE.—Rooms at Mere Hall nearly ready. "Very handsome bequest (*sic*) of books has been made by the Trustees of the British Museum." Mr. John Heywood made a further gift of new books to High St. Library. 394 subscribers to the Subscription Library; 1621 volumes have been purchased, 1406 volumes (valued £210) transferred to the Public Library, and 65,395 volumes have been issued to subscribers.

CARDIFF: Librarian, JOHN BALLINGER.—Inconvenience arising from insufficient accommodation has been felt with greater force than ever. The Science and Art Schools have been transferred to Committee

appointed under the Technical Instruction Act, 1889. Catalogue of Lending Library issued 25th February. The interest of the younger borrowers is fully maintained. Books for the blind are in regular use. A demand for German books. Mr. W. Rönfeldt, a member of the Committee, read a paper on the "Songs" in the Library. The mess room of the assistants appropriated for books. Times of closing rearranged: the Lending Library closes at 8 p.m. instead of 9 p.m., except on Wednesdays at 4 p.m., and on Saturdays at 9 p.m. Reference Library and Ladies' Room kept open till 10 p.m. Cathays Branch Reference Library opened 30th April. At the Roath Branch greater accommodation and increased facilities for the readers required. The balance sheet shows that at the Cathays Branch £2 10s. were spent for "salaries." £1390 were spent on the Library and Branches, and £940 devoted to the Schools and Museum.

DERBY: Librarian, WILLIAM CROWTHER.—Aim of the Committee "to perfect the work of the institution on the present lines rather than to initiate anything new or startling." Supplementary catalogue issued. Interesting memoranda on p. 8 *re* Use (? Abuse) of the books. 1,204 volumes bespoken by the payment of 1d. each. All books which have been in infected houses have been destroyed. Mr. C. J. Courtney, for eighteen years an assistant, has been appointed librarian at the Minet Library. "Some few additional particulars have been given in conformity with the recommendations of the L.A.U.K."

FOLKESTONE: Librarian, STUART G. HILLS.—Special Book Fund amounted to £42 16s. 2d., by means of which the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, *Imperial Dictionary*, and about 100 volumes have been added. Urgent need for fresh copies of many popular books, worn out and not replaced. On turning to the balance sheet there appears to be a balance in hand at end of year of £416!

HARROGATE: Librarian, C. FREDERIC HARRISON.—The report of the Public Libraries Committee for 1889-90 appears in the "Second Annual Report of the Committees of the Council," presented 10th November, 1890. The library was only opened to the public on December 1st, 1887. Nearly one-fourth of the population of the borough avail themselves of the library. Though recently moved to new premises all the available shelf room is now full.

KENSINGTON: Librarian, HERBERT JONES.—The old Vestry Hall has been acquired for library purposes at a rent of £100 a year. It was opened by H.R.H. Princess Louise on the 29th November. Expense of adapting and fitting up the Vestry Hall building, including the installation of the electric light, amounted to £1,400. Reference Library of valuable works being formed. Tender of Mr. Greenwood for new branch library at Notting Hill for £3,590 accepted. After over a year's trial the opening of Brompton Branch Library on Sundays has been discontinued owing to the small attendance.

LEAMINGTON SPA: Librarian, DAVID B. GRANT.—685 new books have been bought for £150, and 90 volumes for replacement have cost £15. Reference Library much appreciated. Daily average attendance in libraries and reading rooms 1,100 persons. Accommodation very limited for the increased work, especially as the borough boundaries have been extended. The balance against the library has been increased from £5 to £45.

MANCHESTER: Librarian, C. W. SUTTON.—Diminution in the circulation of books and in the attendance of readers attributed mainly to

the strike of gas workers in December last, when the libraries had on several occasions to be closed for want of light, also four of the branches have been closed several weeks for repainting. A less unsatisfactory reason is to be found in the recent improvement in trade. Total number of visits to libraries and reading rooms on Sundays 284,840, or an average of 5,585 each Sunday. The Committee's workmen at the Reference Library have bound 836 volumes for the Reference Library, and repaired, lettered and numbered 10,655 volumes for Reference and Branch Libraries. A set of Mr. E. Muybridge's *Instantaneous Photographs of Animal Locomotion* (781 folio plates) has been added. A circular has been addressed to the heads of schools in the city containing information about the libraries and suggestions for the preparation of lists of books suitable for reading out of school hours. Three lectures delivered at the Reference Library.

MIDDLESBOROUGH: Librarian, BAKER HUDSON.—Although 394 volumes have been replaced there is a considerable mass of literature, chiefly fiction, which requires renewal. A set of patents abridgements has been granted to the library. Attendance during the evening, at the central room, rarely under 150 males and 15 females at any one time. The whole staff appears to have been changed. £40 paid for Poor and District Rates.

NOTTINGHAM: Librarian, J. POTTER BRISCOE.—Central Library reopened on January 1st having been closed for eighteen months. Important improvements effected—a new roof, steel girders to carry Reference Library floor; greatly improved system of ventilation. The books in Reference Library were re-arranged, and Patent Library transferred to a specially-fitted-up room. Five lending libraries and twelve reading rooms. Most of the repairs to books have been done on the premises. A reading room and reference library opened on Hucknall Road, Carrington. List of the Nottinghamshire collection printed, also catalogues for lending libraries.

ROTHERHAM: Librarian, J. RIDAL.—The accounts shew that the deficit of £100 at the beginning of the year has been reduced to £10, consequently out of an income of £544 the Committee have not been able to replace the many popular works now worn out. "93 per cent. of the decrease is in novels, whereas only 83 per cent. of issues is of that class, shewing that even good trade and plenty of profitable work are less powerful to draw the readers of solid literature from their books, than is the case with those who read for amusement only." The question of issuing fiction discussed, also the relation between the issues and the purchase of new works illustrated by a comparison of statistics of other libraries.

SOUTH SHIELDS: Librarian, THOMAS PYKE.—Readers increased in both departments; attendance in newsroom greater than ever. More accommodation for readers, and shelf-room for books are urgently required.

SWANSEA: Librarian, S. E. THOMPSON.—Committee enlarged, now consists of fifty-five members. Regret expressed at Mr. E. Sidney Hartland, vice-chairman, leaving Swansea. Owing to the action of the Council no substantial purchases have been made during the year; as a result number of borrowers from lending department is now rapidly diminishing. The Committee urge the Council to levy a twopence rate under the Corporation Act of last year. The accounts, unfortunately, do not state the period

they cover, but it is satisfactory to see that the deficit of £1,756 has been reduced to £988. Balance of precept, dated 18th April, 1888, is £693, and on account of ditto, 20th March, 1889, is £1,005. The St. Helen's Branch has been moved to more commodious premises. The Committee urge the publication of the catalogue of the Reference Library: "at present, for all practical purposes, it is not only dead but buried, and at such a depth that exhumation is virtually impossible." The expediency of systematically advertising the library by means of a circular posted to every ratepayer to be considered.

WATFORD: Librarian, JOHN WOOLMAN.—The Reference Library has not yet been properly arranged and furnished. Three-volume works have this year been reckoned as one issue; 200 books have lain out of circulation for want of means to re-bind or replace them. The Public Reading Room is not large enough, but with a debt of £230 on the Enlargement Fund and an income admittedly inadequate for the needs of the institution, they do not see the way clear to incur further expense, though anxious to afford the utmost accommodation to the public. The number of members of the Subscription Newsroom is decreasing. With the Report is a Supplemental Catalogue of Books added during the year ended July 31st, 1890.

WHITEHAVEN: Librarian, JOHN SIMPSON.—307 worn out volumes replaced. "The supply of recreative literature of a healthy kind is rightly regarded as not only a legitimate but an indispensable function of a public library, and one moreover not to be lightly valued." A course of "Gilchrist People's Lectures" will be given during the winter. Ventilation of Reading Room to be improved.

WIMBLEDON: Librarian, T. H. RABBITT.—"It is hoped that by the lowering of the Wenham lamps the lighting has been improved." It would be an improvement if ventilating lamps had been used. The subscription to Smith and Sons' Circulating Library, which entitles the Committee to thirty volumes at a time, has been continued. Reduction in issue of fiction, increase in other classes. During three years the sum of £1 5s. 5½d. has been placed in the donation box! A new "key" has been issued. £77 have been paid for rates and taxes.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Librarian, JOHN ELLIOT.—Renovation of the exterior of the library buildings undertaken. The assembling of betting men round the doors has, with the aid of the chief constable, been abated. After twenty years' hard wear the indicators have been re-numbered. Extensions of shelving both in Reference and Lending Libraries. Instead of a balance sheet an estimate only is given.

YARMOUTH: Librarian, WILLIAM CARTER.—Ninety-two volumes of dictionaries, encyclopedias, &c., placed on open shelves in the reading room. The Committee are completing sets of magazines. The Art Loan Exhibition in aid of the Library Book Fund realised a profit of £75 8s. 9d. The Committee, acting in concert with the Local Lectures Committee, aim at increasing the usefulness of this institution as an educational agency for the benefit of all classes. Photographs of some of the antiquities of the town have been presented and are exhibited in the Reading Room.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORTS.

NOTE: Under "Year ending," the first figure refers to the month, the second to the year: e.g., "3-90"=March, 1890. When no figure appears under a heading it means that the required information cannot be obtained from the report.

Name.	No. of Rept.	Year ending.	Number of Volumes in Stock.				Volumes Issued.				Fiction Issued.		Total Income.
			Refr. Library.	Lending Library.	Branches.	Grand Total of Vols.	Refr. Library.	Lending Library.	Branches.	Grand Total of Vols.	Lending Library.	Product of Rate.	
Birkenhead	34	3-90	16	0	11,465	33,051	...	44,516	103,938	161,748	...	...	£1,945
Bolton	...	10-90	19	3	34,263	13,965	27,333	68,561a	81,218	38,279	133,761	54	£3,004
Bradford	...	8-90	26	8	19,485	17,730	28,455	65,670	85,203	173,408	258,312	78	...
Cardiff	...	10-90	36	2	14,447	19,162	1,420	35,029	14,285	122,919	...	90 b	£2,129
Derby	...	9-90	3	0	9,679	15,594	...	24,673	17,380	139,269	...	77	£4,025
Folkestone	...	3-90	8	0	...	...	...	...	...	23,295	...	86	£500
Harrogate	3	0	210	4,467	...	4,677	587	83,295	...	63	£562
Kensington	...	3-90	30	2	6,087	5,967	12,703	24,757	2,270 c	83,539	...	78	£1,189
Leamington	...	9-90	8	0	5,017	9,653	14,670	9,677	50,723	12,364	...	...	£3,543
Manchester	...	3-90	35	64	92,942	166,708 f	2,991 g	202,641	307,785	1,118,827 i	64	...	£4,545
Middlesboro'	...	9-90	3	0	2,559	11,850	152 h	14,561	...	62,825	...	40-935	...
Nottingham	...	3-90	28	51	22,353	25,748	17,464 k	65,595	14,046 j	50,082 j	59	2,742	£956
Rotherham	...	3-90	18	0	...	...	...	9,778	282	44,864	...	76	£500* j
South Shields...	...	9-90	4	0 m	6,262	12,491	...	18,753	13,797	87,429	83	583*	£581
Swansea	...	9-90	23	4	22,377	7,099	3,393	31,869 n	20,250	48,529	55	10,905	£1,377
Watford	...	7-90	28	0	2,485	7,049	...	9,534	...	42,530	...	1,622	£2,723
Whitehaven	...	10-90	17	0	802	4,116	...	4,918	390	27,748	...	59	£2,466
Wimbledon	...	3-90	24	0	2,601	5,710	...	7,771	7,696	81,676	...	1,907	£3,311
Wolverhampton	...	9-90	20	0	5,633	26,163	...	31,796	9,752	62,731	77 p	2,430	£636
Yarmouth	...	3-90	19	1	2,185	8,154	605	10,944	3,318	104,257	70	946*	£1,062
											64 r	3,275	£1,155
													£700

* New borrowers during year. a—Total given on pp. 5 and 13 is 68,061. b—Includes general literature. Fiction issues are estimated at 65 per cent. of the total issues. c—Opened December 30, 1889. d—Also 1,595 unbound periodicals. e—Also three reading rooms. f—Lending department consists of six libraries. g—In three reading rooms. h—In stock. i—Also twelve reading rooms. j—In three months. k—Stock in branches on p. 7 amounts to 17,129. l—By an error 3-90 was printed instead of 3-89 in the Statistical Abstract, November, 1890. m—Also one branch news room. n—Also 1,938 pamphlets. o—Also 90,839 current periodicals issued in R. l. p—Including juvenile. q—Including 8,386 issued in the juvenile reading room. r—74 per cent. is given on p. 15.

Obituary.

We have to record, with deep regret, the death of the Rev. Dr. Tyler, who died on Saturday, the 13th of December, at his residence, "Pine House," Holloway, at the age of 78. He was a member of the Library Association, Hon. Secretary and one of the trustees of the Bethnal Green Free Library, in which he took the keenest interest, and a fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society. To him, we believe, is due the credit of inventing the folding book-cases on runners, first used at Bethnal Green, and afterwards improved upon at the British Museum. He was greatly interested in the promotion of education, and took an active part in the work of the local School Boards. He was also intimately connected with various Philanthropic Institutions. His brother, Sir James Tyler, J.P., died a few months back.

Practical Librarianship.

One of the "Supplements" issued last month was intended to accompany the present number. We refer to Mr. Quinn's leaflet "List of books added, October, 1890, to the Kensal Town Branch of the Chelsea Public Libraries." What makes this leaflet noteworthy is the fact that it is printed and widely circulated free of expense to the library committee, the cost being borne by an enterprising tradesman, who looks for his return to the advertisement which he prints on the fly-leaf.

THE COLE SIZE CARD.

We have received from the inventor, Mr. George Watson Cole, of the Newberry Library, Chicago, a most ingenious and handy contrivance for determining the size notation of books. It is in the form of a card which, inserted in any book, shows at a glance the size within which it falls, and yet the card is only 10 by 8 inches. The cost is trifling, and it can be obtained from the Library Bureau, Boston.

Notes on Books.

Public Libraries. A History of the Movement, and a Manual for the Organization and Management of Rate-Supported Libraries, by Thomas Greenwood, F.R.G.S. Third Edition. Entirely re-written. 1890. 8vo, pp. xx., 586.

We offer a hearty welcome to Mr. Greenwood's new work, for it is, to all intents and purposes, entirely new, although described as the third edition.

His first book on Public Libraries, which appeared in 1886, was of some value as a compilation of facts (and occasionally of fictions!) not readily ascertainable or without considerable searching in a good library, but the mistakes it contained were so numerous as to render it very misleading. These mistakes, we have no doubt, were more the fault of Mr. Greenwood's correspondents than his own. Still, the book served a useful purpose, and in the hands of those agitating for the adoption of the Acts throughout the country did good service.

The second edition, issued at 1s. in 1887, was a distinct improvement on the first. The matter, on the whole, was more carefully arranged and more accurate, and from its cheapness was widely circulated in the Jubilee Year, and proved invaluable to those who, so successfully throughout the country, attempted to turn the Jubilee to good account by the establishment of free public libraries.

In the preparation of his third edition Mr. Greenwood has taken great pains to secure accuracy, and sent schedules to librarians and others all over the country asking questions, the answers to which he has used in the compilation of the book before us. If the statistics thus gathered are occasionally misleading or untrustworthy we must blame the want of system, or rather the want of *one system* in compiling these, and we heartily sympathise with Mr. Greenwood in his plea for uniformity in library returns. On the whole Mr. Greenwood's book is an excellent piece of work, and again and again when we have been asked for information on library matters we have recommended it to inquirers. Where much is so good one is loath to find fault, but Mr. Greenwood's book has established itself so well in the public estimation that it will, in all probability, go on to many editions, and in that belief we think it well to urge Mr. Greenwood that in future issues he would do well to avoid personalities of all kinds. It is, no doubt, very gratifying to various librarians to find themselves praised in Mr. Greenwood's pages, but it is surely impossible, and, in any case, beyond the scope of such a work, to distribute praise and blame with any approach to completeness or fairness. Mr. Greenwood only detracts from the value of his work by attempting to do so partially. Indeed, one of the chief faults of the book is its want of balance, the amount of space and information given to the various libraries being very often out of proportion to their relative importance. As in the matter of statistics we fancy that the blame for this lies more at the door of Mr. Greenwood's correspondents than his own, but as a judicious editor it should be his care to prune the exuberance of enthusiasts.

In conclusion it gives us pleasure to bear testimony to Mr. Greenwood's sterling work in the cause of free public libraries, and we have no hesitation in recommending his book to the attention of our readers. Certainly every free library should possess a copy, and an agitation begun without its aid will make but poor progress.

Wigan County Council Chamber, opened October 30th, 1890.
Descriptive Sketch. 1890. Royl. 8vo, pp. 36.

County Borough of Wigan. Presentation to the Town of a
Regulator Clock by the Mayor, Alderman James Smith, J.P.,
October 30th, 1890. Royl. 8vo, pp. 10.

In the first of the above-named tracts Mr. H. T. Folkard, Librarian of the Public Library, Wigan, has shortly described the arrangement and decoration of the Council Chamber. Both ceiling and walls are enriched with heraldic displays, and it is worthy of notice that two local collections of books, the Public Library, and that of the Rector of Wigan, have furnished all the information required.

The second tract gives a copy of the specification of the Regulator Clock, which is practically a copy of the one built for Manchester about 50 years ago, and now in the Reference Library of that city.

Correspondence.

"CHIEF" LIBRARIANS.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY.

SIR,—I think the point raised by Mr. Robertson is one which, had he given it further consideration, ought to have presented no difficulty at all. At any rate it seems plain enough to me that all persons engaged in the

administrative work of a library are "Librarians." The prefixes "Chief," "Sub," &c., are only used to denote the status of the individuals in the library where they are employed. Hence the fact that the designation "Librarian" will not be found at any institution where there is more than one person engaged; except in the unlikely circumstances of there being more than one person employed, but all enjoying the same status. Regarding the choice between "Chief" and "Principal" as a prefix, it must be solely a matter of individual predilection. The heads of our great public schools are known as "Chiefs" or "Principals" indifferently; for, whilst a person may give himself what title or designation he pleases, others will, of course follow their own inclinations in the term they use when referring to him. But this is a point, I think, about which it would be unwise to needlessly agitate ourselves.

On the question of "Exchanges," I am in accord with Mr. Robertson. I have always considered the sending of reports as a matter of pure courtesy, which is sufficiently met by a reciprocal act on the part of the receiver. Indeed, I cannot believe that any institution expects acknowledgments for reports issued to other libraries. To read the mere acknowledgments would be sheer waste of time; and I do not apprehend that anyone will countenance the adoption of such a course, which, at the best, can serve no useful purpose.

Yours faithfully,
X-L.

DEAR SIR,—The question raised by Mr. Robertson in your last issue is not by any means uninteresting. To one of a statistical turn of mind much curious and possibly edifying information may be derived from the titles of the heads of the various rate-supported libraries scattered up and down the country. It is certainly amusing that the head of the library at Slow-in-the-Hole should be dubbed by his Committee with the same title as that of the head of our National Library (for surely the Librarian would be too modest to arrogate to himself such a title), while his assistant, "passing rich on £40 a year," is dubbed "Sub-Librarian."

The following is a list of some of the titles by which a Librarian is called in the reports of various Library Committees:—Caretaker and Librarian; Chief Librarian; Chief Librarian and Clerk; Chief Librarian and Curator; Chief Librarian and Curator and Clerk; Honorary Librarian; Librarian and Clerk; Librarian and Curator; Librarian and Secretary; Principal Librarian; Secretary and Borough Librarian; Secretary and Chief Librarian; Secretary and Librarian. Some seventy reports have been examined, and nearly half use the title Librarian by itself.

I would respectfully suggest that where there is only one building under a special library authority, the head officer should be known as Librarian, with or without the prefix, "Borough, City, District or Parish." If there are any branches, the head officer might then be Chief Librarian, and the heads of branches, Branch Librarians, which would be shorter than Librarians-in-Charge. If the Librarian fulfils the duties of Secretary or Clerk to the library authority it might be so stated. In many places the Librarian is neither Clerk nor Secretary, nor even has he any power over the Clerk, but has to receive the instructions of the authority through the said Clerk.

Again, if he be Curator or Superintendent of Art Gallery, or Secretary to the Science and Art Classes, if either or all are under the charge of the library authority, it might be added, though, I think, it would make his official title rather unwieldy.

As to the assistants, *i.e.*, all under the head officer, I should suggest

using the term Sub-Librarian in only the large libraries, and call the others Senior and Junior Assistants if the number on the staff warrant it or a distinction be required. I have been much amused to see a lad recently appointed to a junior post in a library fill up a form and gravely write under the heading occupation—Librarian! What should we think of solicitors' and barristers' clerks styling themselves solicitors and barristers? By all means let us avoid "high faluting."

Yours truly,

AN EX-ASSISTANT.

"EXCHANGES."

DEAR SIR,—I do not see the difficulty that Mr. Robertson dreads in acknowledging the receipt of reports, &c. A simple post-card, as is done by some libraries—both abroad and at home—would suffice; it would be courteous and at the same time inexpensive. As there is no fixed time when reports are sent out, it might avoid complications if a post-card were sent at once. An assistant told to send a report to a particular library might neglect the duty, but a post-card acknowledging its receipt would shew that the order had not been over-looked, or that the report had not miscarried. If acknowledgments "lay an additional burden of expense and trouble on a library" and disturb the librarian's "peace of mind," the remedy is in the librarian's own hands—he need not acknowledge.

Yours respectfully,

CECIL T. DAVIS.

Library Association Record.

THE last monthly meeting of the Library Association was held at the Battersea Public Library, Lavender Hill, S.W., on Monday, December 8th, at eight o'clock p.m.; Mr. H. R. Tedder, Treasurer, in the chair. Mr. John Colman, of 6, Honeywell Road, S.W., was elected a member. Mr. Frank Higgs, Chairman of the Library Commissioners, welcomed the Association to Battersea, and paid a well-deserved tribute to their librarian, Mr. Lawrence Inkster. Mr. Inkster then read a paper upon the "Public Libraries of Battersea," and in the discussion which ensued the following gentlemen took part:—Messrs. Burgoyne (Lambeth), Davis (Wandsworth), Quinn (Chelsea), Dingwall (Clapham Commissioner), James and Davey (Battersea Commissioners), Gilbert, J. B. Bailey (Royal College of Surgeons), Kershaw (Lambeth Palace Library), Hobbes, Foscett (Camberwell), Tedder (Athenæum), J. Reed Welch (Clapham), and Wakeling (Carlton Club Library).

NEXT MEETING.

THE next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, January 12th, at eight p.m. in the Clerkenwell Public Library, by the kind invitation of the Commissioners. Mr. William Robson, Vice-chairman of the library, will read a paper on "How the Acts were Carried in Clerkenwell," and "On the Working of the library," by the librarian, Mr. J. D. Brown.

The Council will meet at seven the same evening.

(N.B.—The Clerkenwell Public Library is in Skinner Street, E.C., near Exmouth Street, off Farringdon Road. Trains to Farringdon Street or King's Cross. Buses from Victoria to Islington via Charing Cross and Chancery Lane, pass close to the library.)

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 30, Hanover Square, W.—Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publisher, 69, Paternoster Row, E.C.

Rhyme and Reason in English Verse.

EVERY art has its own laws of expression, which have been discovered by experience and sanctioned by usage. The sculptor, though free to choose between marble, bronze, stone or clay, &c., is restricted to a material that can be carved or moulded and will retain the impress of his hand. So the poet, though his range among dialects of language and forms of verse is practically boundless, must accept the conditions of his choice, and cannot violate with impunity the sanctity of the language or the form. Such traditional or conventional restraints as linger in every ancient art, which are not in a true sense its essential conditions, may justly be set at nought. Those which it is imperative to obey are such as inhere in the nature of the subject dealt with or the instrument employed. To take the simplest example that offers, harmony of colours in painting, or harmony of tones in music, constitutes a fundamental condition of this kind which remains unalterable. The corresponding condition in poetry is harmony of words, which implies not merely the rhythmical measurement of musical syllables, but accord between a given versification and the structure of the language in which it is composed. In view of some recent attempts to modify the usage and enlarge the limits of English versification, it may be of interest to see what aid the history of its development affords towards determining the conditions of linguistic structure to which it is bound to conform. A few familiar facts must be recalled at the outset.

By universal admission, the anatomy of our language testifies to its Teutonic origin. Of the words used in the time of King Alfred it has been calculated that about a fifth part has been dropped, and that of those now in use about five-eighths are of "Saxon" or English derivation. The English grammar has been pronounced to be merely "a simplification of the Anglo-Saxon;" the changes which have taken place in it chiefly affecting the inflection of certain nouns, pronouns and

articles, and a few verbal tenses.¹ These changes, together with the principal additions to our vocabulary, were mainly due to the infusion of the Romance dialect spoken by the Norman conquerors, which grew, among others, out of the decay of the Latin tongue. Though substantially adopting the language of the conquered race, the Normans intermingled with it certain native forms and modes of speech which, in the course of centuries, gradually modified it into the shape it wears in the verse of our first great poet. The process of modification has left its traces in a transitional literature. The metrical system of the English before the Conquest was in keeping with the structure of their language. It was determined by the accent of syllables, not their quantity, the number of accents in a verse varying at the writer's pleasure. As consonants were plentiful and vowels few, it obtained melody by the initial alliteration of the one, instead of the final assonance, or rhyme, of the other. The Normans, though not reckoning syllables by quantity, maintained a relic of Latin tradition by observing regularity of accentuation, and as vowels were abundant in their vocabulary, systematically employed rhyme, for which the frequency of common verbal derivatives afforded additional facility. The blending in different forms of these two systems is apparent in such poems as Layamon's "Brut," "The Owl and the Nightingale," the moral proverbs of Hendyng and Minot's war-songs, which all belong to the periods classified by Mr. Marsh as "Semi-Saxon" and "Old English."² Their writers, while displaying more or less preference for alliteration and irregular accentuation, conformed to the change of national taste by adopting in some shape or other the rhyming couplets brought into fashion by the Norman *trouvères*. It was reserved for their successor, Chaucer, to end this period of transition and fix the fluid elements of English versification into a solidity which it retained for two centuries.

From his French training and Italian culture he imported a variety of choice words and measures, which his quick instinct discerned to be fitly and readily assimilated by a nascent literature. Fired by the influence of his example, or the fame of his success in English verse, his elder contemporary, Gower, was induced to forego his habitual use of French as a poetic medium,

¹ Spalding's *Hist. of Eng. Literature*, pp. 142-4, 154-5.

² *Lectures on the English Language*, p. 17.

and follow, though at a distance, in the same direction. Chaucer's strongly national sympathies made him a safe guide; the syntax of his sentences remaining English, however deeply tinged with French was his diction. Of the comparatively "small number of foreign words employed by him and by Gower," Mr. Marsh considers that "a large share were in a manner forced upon them by the exigencies of rhyme."¹ The facilities which the language then possessed for rhymed versification were considerably greater than they are now. The prevailing mode of accentuation was French. In a large number of words of which the final *e* is now mute, it was then accented. Diphthongs and dissyllables, especially *ion*, which terminates so many words, now slurred in pronunciation, were then metrically prolonged. Derivatives from common verbal roots, which we now reject as rhymes, were then employed without scruple. With these advantages it is not surprising to find Chaucer and his successors, Lydgate and Occleve, composing in such French forms as the *balade* and *rondel*, the structure of which depends upon the continuous recurrence of a few interwoven rhymes. It might rather surprise us that these forms occur so rarely in their verse, were not the reason disclosed by Chaucer himself. In his *Compleynt of Mars and Venus* he thus apologises for his shortcomings in translating literally from a language richer in consonances than his own:—

"And eke to me it is a great penaunce,
Sith rime in English hath soch scarcitee,
To follow word by word the curiositee
Of Graunson, flour of hem that make in France."

Notwithstanding all the modifications which he could introduce from foreign sources, the Teutonic structure of the tongue remained dominant, and accordingly we find him giving the preference to those forms of verse in which rhyme is but a subordinate feature. The measures which he definitively fixed in our literature were the eight-syllabled couplet, the ten-syllabled couplet—or "riding rhyme," as it was called—the quatrain of ten-syllabled lines alternately rhyming, and a stanza of seven lines modified from Boccaccio's *ottava rima* by omitting the fifth. All these have justified their adoption by a moderate employment of rhyme, sufficient to gratify without palling on the ear, and involving no strain upon the sense of the words chosen.

During the fifteenth century, English, as a spoken language,

¹ *Lectures, ut supra*, pp. 116, 117.

appears to have gradually receded from the French mode of accentuation, and approached its present form of pronunciation. The nearer it attained this goal, the less available became the usages of versification which had been appropriate to the period of transition before Chaucer, and even permissible to his own. The change is attested by the contemporary balladists, who, writing for the people, were quick to discover that the French forms of recurring rhymes, which had been in vogue with their predecessors, no longer answered to the habits of common speech, and by degrees abandoned them as unattractive. These forms had been in keeping with the ingenious subtlety and elaborate conceits of their inventors, the Provençal poets, and scarcely less germane to the genius of the Norman *trouvères* who adopted them, but were little in harmony with the durable elements of English taste. The "ballets" of interwoven rhymes preserved in antiquarian repositories of verse usually deserve the censure passed on them by Dr. Guest, as marked by as "little depth of thought" and as conspicuous "an absence of all genuine feeling" as their "foreign models."¹ Having been written for and sung by the courtier class rather than the people, their shortcoming in these respects long escaped observation, but when the people had advanced in culture and felt their need of song, it could no longer be tolerated. With the removal of that over-strained attention to form which the structure of the French "ballet" required, came a freer spontaneity of emotion, and more earnest occupation with poetic thought. The noblest and sweetest ballads in our literature, of the type which stirred Sidney's heart "like a trumpet," and haunted the memory of Shakespeare till he enshrined them in an imperishable record, belong to this period.

True, however, to the national conservatism of habit, English versification remained substantially unaltered long after the divergence between it and the spoken tongue, in point of accentuation, must have been apparent. Sir Thomas Wyat, although foremost in importing from Italy the culture of the completed Renaissance, and eager to essay new literary experiments, either did not apprehend the need, or would not venture to initiate the task, of harmonizing metrical with ordinary speech. Two verse-forms which he naturalized have proved permanently serviceable, the *ottava rima* and the sonnet. The disposition of

¹ *His. of Eng. Rhythm*, vol. ii., p. 365.

rhymes in each, while fully taxing the resources of our vocabulary, does not overburden them. Wyatt's attempt to naturalize the *terza rima* was less successful. Its unattractiveness is probably due to its monotony, as it imposes no excessive strain upon our fund of rhymes. The *rondeaux* which Wyatt wrote in imitation of French models have been equally unattractive until of late years. The form, however, was no more difficult to him than the *balade* or *rondel* had been to Chaucer and Lydgate, for the sufficient reason that he maintained their usage of accenting final letters and syllables which, in speaking, would be mute or slurred, and of employing as consonances words derived from a common verbal root. Thus, for the sake of procuring rhymes, he was at liberty to prolong the dissyllable in "fashion," "possession," &c., and to divide the single vowel-sound of *ea* in "reason" into its component parts after this wise:—

" But myself I say in this fashíon,
I have her heart in my possessíon
And on my faith good is the réason."

He elsewhere rhymes such words as "address" and "redress," "affection" and "perfection."

The task of reconciliation which Wyatt declined was undertaken by his friend, Lord Surrey. He is the first English poet whose verse a modern reader can enjoy without accommodating himself to obsolete methods of accentuation and foreign usages of rhyme. His editor, Dr. Nott, justly claims for him that he "discountenanced altogether the French mode of laying an unnatural stress upon final syllables; he followed the obvious and common pronunciation of our language, carefully avoiding all double terminations, and using only those words for rhyme which were noble and harmonious, and such as the ear might dwell upon with pleasure." A reform so timely and judicious commended itself to general acceptance, was adopted by all succeeding poets of note, and may be said to have conferred upon our versification its distinctive national character. Surrey's activity as a metrical reformer did not stop here. He improved the construction of the ten-syllabled line by dividing it "into five equal iambic feet," and varied the place of the *cæsura* "as he found the harmony of the verse required." We are further indebted to him for the importation of blank verse which, under the name of *versi sciolti*, had recently been employed by Italian writers for dramatic dialogue and elegy. This stately measure, so eminently suited to the genius of our language, and for the

expression of thoughts with which the seductive sweetness of rhyme would be out of keeping, thenceforward assumed that pre-eminence which it has never lost.

From the date of Surrey's reforms English versification may be regarded as established upon its existing basis. The vigorous impulse of poetic spirit which signalized the Elizabethan epoch manifested itself in more than one effort to enlarge the resources of form. The boldest attempt to test the rhyming capability of our vocabulary was made by Spenser in inventing the nine-lined stanza of his "*Faery, Queene*." Up to a certain point it follows the structure of the French *balade*, but modifies it by the addition of a final Alexandrine. This, as Professor Morley well says, "destroys the expectation of continuance" which makes the *balade* monotonous, and "the two extra syllables close with a new turn the music of the stanza."¹ The Spenserian form, moreover, differs from that of the *balade* by limiting the recurrence of the rhymes to a single verse, instead of prolonging the sequence throughout the poem. Even when thus restricted, however, the tax it imposes upon the rhymers' ingenuity has prevented the measure from being frequently employed, although its musical charm must always secure it from desuetude. Spenser could scarcely have composed so long a poem in it without resorting for rhymes to archaic spellings and provincialisms. "*Childe Harold*" is not a quarter as long, but even Byron, with the advantages of a rich modern vocabulary, has not always concealed the evidences of strain.

Some metrical experiments which attracted attention in the Elizabethan age were made in another direction. The fascinations of classical Latin poetry blinded a few learned and ambitious scholars to the plainest characteristic of their native tongue, and tempted them to essay the feat of forcing the yoke of quantitative prosody upon words traditionally pronounced and scanned by accent. The same disregard of tradition led them to abandon rhyme as unworthy the dignity of serious literature. This disparaging estimate of it was countenanced by Ascham, the father of English erudition, but he predicted that any attempt to naturalize the classical metres would certainly fail. Those who persisted in this hopeless enterprise were headed by Gabriel Harvey, an enthusiastic pedant, whose

¹ *A First Sketch of Engl. Literature* (p. 449); a work to which I am indebted for several apposite illustrations of my subject.

eloquence for a time persuaded Sidney and Spenser, with their friends Fulke Greville and Edward Dyer, to band themselves with him as an Areopagus for remodelling English versification upon Latin rules. Some of the Sapphics and hexameters upon which Sidney wasted much precious thought are introduced into his "Arcadia." Spenser, sooner than he, discerned that the idea was impracticable, and relinquished it without executing any work of importance; thereby incurring the solemn warning of Harvey that he would ruin his fame. Two or three scholars remained faithful to the classical standard, notably Stanihurst and Webbe, of whom the former published in 1583 a translation of the *Æneid* in hexameter verse. A single extract should suffice to deter any modern poet from imitating the example. Laocoon is thus described as casting his spear at the wooden horse:—

"Thus said, he stout rested with his chaapt staffe speedily running.
Strong the steed he chargeth, the planck ribs manfully riding.
Then the jade, hit, shivered; the vaults hauf shrillie rebounded
With clush clash buzzing, with drooming clattered humming."

Similarly disastrous experiments were made by Webbe a year or two later in his *Discourse of English Poetry*. The failures of the reformers did not escape the ridicule of contemporary wits; George Peele burlesquing them after this fashion in his *Old Wives' Tale*:—

"Philida, phileridos, pamphilida, florida, florlos;
'Dub-dub-a-dub, bounce,' quoth the guns with a sulphurous huff-snuff."

For a graver audience the satirist, Joseph Hall, thus passed sentence upon the pedants in his *Virgidemiarum*:—

"Whoever saw a colt wanton and wild
Yok'd with a slowfoot ox on fallow field,
Can right areed how handsomely besets
Dull spondees with the English dactylets."

In the form in which it was started the movement soon died out for want of public support, but one feature of Harvey's programme was adopted by individual poets for half a century longer. Campion, for example, in his *Observations on the Art of English Poesy* (1602), urged as objections to the employment of rhyme that its "facilitie and popularitie creates as many poets as a hot sommer flies," and that it "enforceth a man often times to . . . extend a short conceit beyond all bounds of art." He illustrated a more excellent way, in his estimation, by samples

of unrhymed measures, which, though far from unmusical, did not attract imitators. The same objections were entertained by Ben Jonson, who expressed them, strangely enough, in rhymed verses that attest the lightness of the fetters of which he complained. Though consequently vain as an argument against the moderate use of rhyme, these vigorous lines convey an admirable caution against its abuse:—

“ Rhyme, the rack of finest wits,
That expresseth but by fits
True conceits ;
Spoiling senses of their treasure,
Cosening judgment with a measure
But false weights.
Wresting words from their true calling,
Propping verse for fear of falling
To the ground ;
Joining syllables, drowning letters,
Fasting vowels as with fetters
They were bound.”

The master's disregard of his own precepts was imitated by his chief disciple, Herrick, who habitually used rhyme. In lyrical ease and versatility this delightful, though unequal, poet distanced his contemporaries, but a large measure of the same charm was shared among the whole group of seventeenth-century poets, Wither, Carew, Suckling, Lovelace, and others, who illustrate more strikingly than those of any century before our own the ample range of legitimate English versification.

A last protest against rhyme was uttered by Milton, himself among the most melodious of our poets who have employed it. His severe censure was directed in the interest of his fellows against the constraint it imposed upon them ; affirming that they are “ carried away by custom . . . to express many things otherwise and for the most part worse than else they would have exprest them.” In his great epics he accordingly abandoned the practice of which his earlier works afforded such exquisite examples, and resorted to blank verse, with the avowed object of avoiding “ the jingling sound of like endings,” and freeing heroic poetry from “ the troublesome and modern bondage of rimeing.”

These animadversions found little countenance among his immediate successors, in an age when the influence of French literature was paramount, and the conventional usage of writing dramatic dialogue in rhymed couplets was both adopted and

defended by Dryden. The arguments by which he upheld this borrowed servitude were not, indeed, universally accepted; his brother-in-law and rival dramatist, Sir Robert Howard, maintaining with some animation the superiority of blank verse, and the Duke of Buckingham ridiculing the absurdities of the prevailing fashion in *The Rehearsal*. But so long as he was justified by public approval, Dryden held his ground against all opposition. It was not until he found the tide was turning that he resolved to abandon the French mode, and in the preface to *All for Love* (1678) announced that he had "disencumbered" himself from rhyme.

In all other provinces of poetry "heroic verse" kept its supremacy. Waller first attained to an ease and polish in its management which impressed his contemporaries as masterly, and won special praise from one so far his superior as Dryden. It was claimed for him by the editor of his posthumous works, that "he had a fine ear, and knew how quickly that sense was cloyed by the same round of chiming words still returning upon it. . . . Therefore to take off the danger of a surfeit that way, he strove to please by variety and new sounds." This praise may seem to us exaggerated in its application to his ten-syllabled verse, but scarcely over-estimates his graceful handling of the eight-syllabled couplet.

In the next generation Prior, though his versification often lapsed into what Cowper has called "an easy jingle," imported some variety into his lyrical measures. With the further exception of Swift, whose eight-syllabled verse is excellent, the Augustan poets devoted themselves almost exclusively to heroic metre, and at the hands of Pope its composition attained the utmost perfection of which it is perhaps capable. The diversion in favour of blank verse made by Young and Thomson availed little, for the art of mastering the measure had died with Milton. The Spenserian stanza was revived merely as an archaic curiosity by Thomson and Shenstone. The latter's lyrical flights seldom soared beyond the narrow range of Arcadian elegy, and his versification is as monotonously insipid as his themes. The finer genius of Gray and the delicate taste of Collins inspired a fresher tone and more metrical variety. In his graceful *Ode to Evening* the latter employed with singular success the rhythmical, unrhymed measure which Campion had broached in the previous century, but his early death precluded a repetition of the experiment. With these rare breaks our versification remained at the

dead level of uniformity until the eighteenth century was drawing near its end. Symptoms of revival manifested themselves with Cowper, who, in his shorter poems of sentiment and humour, handled anapæsts with freedom. Blake imitated the lyrical mannerism of the Elizabethan writers with considerable ingenuity, and gave ballad-verse a new charm by tuning it for children's voices. Burns, under the influence of his strong passions and quick emotions, drew largely from the unexhausted source of national melody, and demonstrated its indefinite capability of lyrical expression. The "bob-tail" measure which he was fond of employing, even for serious burdens, was borrowed, as Dr. Guest supposes, from a Troubadour love-song of the thirteenth century.¹

HENRY G. HEWLETT.

(*To be continued.*)



¹ *His. of Eng. Rhythms*, vol. ii., p. 349.

Book Plates.

THE marks of ownership with which library owners in the past have distinguished their own volumes have of late years received a considerable amount of attention, and it is well that they have, for a study of them possesses an interest at once antiquarian and artistic. These marks of ownership may be divided into two classes: the first, those which are placed *outside* the volume—for these there is no recognised name, unless it be *super libros*; the second, those placed *within* the volume, known in England principally by the not very appropriate name of book plates, and on the Continent chiefly as *Ex libris*. In the present paper it is proposed to speak wholly of the latter, and it is needless to waste space and time by discussing what would be a more appropriate name by which to call them.

There are instances on record of book plates, drawn and coloured by hand, being found on the covers of old manuscript books belonging to a date anterior to the introduction of printing, but these instances are extremely few. The real necessity for a book plate came into existence when printing gave the world, not two or three, but a hundred copies of a particular work. Then there was need for different owners to distinguish their respective copies; for the book-borrower existed in the past, and his morality, in the matter of returning what he borrowed, was as lax as that of his genus in the present day. The existence of book plates is, therefore, due to the existence of the literary enthusiast who amasses a library by retaining volumes that his friends have lent him. That book plates were invented as a safeguard against the ways of the professional book-borrower is clearly proved by the inscriptions which one so often sees upon them; the owner, be it said, in these inscriptions rather meanly shelters himself behind his volume, which is, in the majority of cases, supposed to be spokesman, and to demand restitution to its rightful shelf:—

*"Me tibi jure suum Dominus, propriumque paravit;
Usum concessit sponte cuicumque (?) bono.
Sed tu, si bonus es, Domino me reddito, gratus,
Si retines, malus es, nec bonus usus erit."*

This was an old Königsberg professor's way of putting it; shorter and more to the point is the sentiment uttered by the volumes from the library of a Bavarian monastery (Wessenbrunn):—

*“Wessofontani proba sum possessio claustrī,
Heus! Domino me redde meo: sic jura respiciunt.”*

On English book plates such inscriptions only appear at a much later date, and are certainly milder in form: “The ungodly borroweth and payeth not again” is a popular quotation, used as a warning to would-be book retainers.

Let us now consider what is known of the antiquity of book plates. The earliest specimens are certainly German; they are, of course, woodcuts possessing considerable excellence in design, as indeed might be expected when we discover that Albert Durer was amongst the artists who designed them. One of the earliest dated examples is that of a certain Hieronymus Ebner, of Nuremberg, engraved in 1516. This is designed by Durer. Another plate by the same artist is the one he produced for his friend, Bilibald Pirckheimer, a Nuremberg jurist, of whom, in 1524, he engraved a portrait. Here is a description of the Pirckheimer plate, which is a fairly typical example of other book plates by Durer and, indeed, of other early German specimens. The central portion of the design consists of two escutcheons—one bearing the arms of Pirckheimer and the other those of Margaret Rieterin, his wife—placed at right angles to each other, and small in comparison with the helmet, the centre of which comes between the two shields. On this helmet stands a very large crest; clinging round the helmet, and at the same time holding up the escutcheons, are two juvenile angels, whose feet rest on an excrescence growing from a kind of cornucopia placed on either side of the design. On the top of each of these, stands a small angel holding the end of a festoon, which falls from either side of a ram's head, the top central ornament in the design. The space below the escutcheons is filled with the figures of diminutive angels apparently at play. Below is the inscription, which leaves us in no doubt as to the use for which the woodcut was intended: “Liber Bilibaldi Pirckheimer;” above are the words *Sibi et Amicis*, and the motto *Inicium Sapientiæ Timor Domini*, which, in imitation of the inscription nailed to the cross at Our Lord's Crucifixion, is repeated in Greek and Hebrew. Now this interesting book

plate is not uncommon in England, and for this reason: Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel, who was born in 1580 and died in 1645, by means of a continental agent, amassed a noble library; part of this, says Walpole, belonged to the Hungarian kings, and was purchased by the earl from "Perkeymerus." "Henry, Duke of Norfolk," he continues, "to whom it descended, by persuasion of Mr. Evelyn, bestowed it on the Royal Society." In the library of that Society the plate may now be seen, and books containing it come sometimes into the market, the Royal Society having a few years ago sold part of these books as duplicates. Of course, Pirckheimer from whom the Earl of Arundel's agents purchased, was not Bilibald himself. Mr. Leicester Warren (now Lord de Tabley) in his work on book plates, conjectures that he was his great-nephew or grandson.

Throughout the 16th and in the early part of the 17th century, German book plates abound; and, as time goes on, some creditable examples of French ones appear, but we will pass these over in order to speak of English specimens. We seek in vain for any of these either so early or so artistic as those of Germany or France, but, from association, are they not surely of superior interest? The earliest dated specimens of English book plates yet come to light belong to quite the close of the 16th century;¹ they are extremely few in number, but one of them is of high interest; it bears date, 1574, and is a wood-cut (coloured) of the arms of Bacon and Quaplod quarterly, with a crescent for difference. The shield is surmounted by a helmet from which falls a slight mantling terminating in tassels; and the crest is a boar passant charged with a crescent; below is the motto, "*Mediocria Firma*," and this inscription:—"N. Bacon eques auratus & magni sigilli Angliæ custos librum hunc bibliothecæ Cantabrig: dicavit, 1574." How long after the gift this plate was engraved we have no means of ascertaining, but the style is certainly contemporary—judging from armorial representations on brasses and the like of the period. The donor was the second son of Robert Bacon of Drinkston; he was educated at Cambridge University, and it will be remembered that he became Lord Keeper under Queen Elizabeth. It has been said of him that he was "a father of his country and of Sir Francis Bacon." It is certainly strange that

¹ One, dated 1518, is said to have been recently discovered in the Bodleian.

book plates should have been so much later coming into general use here than on the Continent, for one would certainly fancy that English men of letters and position, who were constantly travelling on the Continent, and bringing back with them Continental ideas and fashions, would have followed the very useful practice of using book plates; yet we are forced to believe that they did not, or more numerous examples would surely have existed till to-day. Of course there is this fact, which we must not forget, namely: that English bindings were not so durable as those used abroad—the old German oak bindings for instance, on which the earliest book plates are now often found pasted. It is, therefore, possible that some early English examples may have perished with the bindings on which they were fastened.

The opening years of the next century give us but few English-dated book plates. There is an interesting one dated in 1613: the arms on which are a chevron *vair* between three eagles displayed; the crest is an eagle's head *or*, between two wings expanded *vair*. Above are the words "SYDNEY SVSSEX COLLEDGE," and below "*Ex dono Willielmi Willmer de Lywell in com: Northamptoniæ Armigeri quondam pensionarii in ista Domi (sic), viz.,—in anno D[omi]ni 1599, sed dedit anno D[omi]ni 1613.*"

Though, as we have just said, there are few English book plates actually dated in the 17th century, there are a great many fine examples without dates, many without even their owners' names, which from various facts connected with them may be placed in the first half of the century. During the second half of the century there were many similar ones. Some, indeed most, of them are striking examples of heraldic art, and seem to have been designed under the influence of the heraldic revival which swept over England after the Restoration; they are generally printed on sheets of paper sufficiently large to cover the rough mill-board which formed the inside of the cover of a folio volume—when used for a quarto the margin of the paper is folded in to fit. It would be out of place in a paper of this kind to occupy space on a description of specimens, but passing allusion may be made to a remarkably fine anonymous plate of the Lyttleton Family which gives a shield containing some sixteen quarterings, and is engraved by William Marshall, the prolific engraver of frontispieces, from 1590 to 1645. It probably belonged to Edward Lyttleton,

who was Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in 1640, and Lord Keeper the following year; he died in 1645. To very much the same date, belongs a sharply-cut engraving of the arms of Talbot of Thorneton, Yorkshire, with the simple inscription, "*Coll: Talbott.*" The owner was probably John Talbot, who during the Civil War is described as "*Colonellus ex parte Regis*;" he died in 1659. Another fine bold book plate is one, probably engraved by Faithorne, belonging to Thomas Gore, of Alderton, Wilts, which dates somewhere about the year 1670. A few years later he had another and smaller book plate engraved for him by the Dutch-born artist, Michael Burghers, who left Holland in 1672, and worked for some years at Oxford. Thomas Gore had also other book plates designed for him, and followed a peculiar method of fastening these plates into his books, namely, by pasting the edge of the plate on to the title page, and facing it, so as to give the plate the appearance of an illustration to the book.

Towards the close of the 17th century English book plates, with dates and without them, became common. Many, it is true, are merely what may be termed "name tickets"—the owner's name and a date within an ornamental border—but still they are book plates, and must be regarded as such in considering the growth of the fashion of using these marks of ownership in England. From 1698 down to the first year of the present century we have at least one dated example in every year. The most prolific years are those from 1700 to 1710; everybody with a library seems then to have had a book plate engraved, but what started the fashion just then, is not clear.

Coming now to consider the different styles met with on English book plates, we may divide them into those purely heraldic—that is, a symmetrical shield flanked, generally to the base, with heavy mantling, or with lighter mantling terminating in tassels; the "Jacobean" plates, in which the shield is enclosed in an ornamented frame, and frequently rests upon a bracket; the "Chippendale" plates, in which the arms appear in a shell-shaped shield—of course unsymmetrical—from which sprays of flowers extend themselves; the "wreath and ribbon" style, in which the shield is again symmetrical, and hangs apparently from an unrepresented object, either by a ribbon tied in a bow at the top of the shield or by festoons of flowers. Then we have

what may be termed the "celestial" style, in which a symmetrical shield floats on banks of clouds. This is the latest style; it died out, perhaps, about 1820; since then English book plates have been engraved after no particular fashion, but with an attempt, generally unsuccessful, at copying an earlier style. The purely heraldic book plates are certainly the earliest; "Jacobean" book plates are found towards the close of the seventeenth century, and as late as 1750. "Chippendale" plates appear soon after 1740, and so on. Of course it must be understood that these dates are assigned very roughly. Between the different styles, too, we have transitional plates. Allegory creeps into all the different styles, and what may be called "landscape" plates also belong to different periods, none, however, appearing till the middle of the last century. In these plates the shield, variously-shaped, rests against some object in the landscape, which is often a view of the owner's house or of the town in which he lived. Another form of design which is met with in English book plates at all periods—it occurs on a dated specimen as early as 1699—is that which shows a shield (on which are either arms or the owner's name) enclosed in a frame of book-cases stocked with books. A very rare and interesting class of book plates is that on which the owner uses his portrait as a mark of ownership for his books. Beneath the portrait is an inscription which shows that the plate was specially prepared as a book plate, and not used as a whim by the owner. If portrait collectors would look closely into the smaller examples in their collections, the list of this class of book plates would be, very likely, materially added to; as it is, they may get passed over as ordinary portraits.

It is time now to say something about the engravers of English "book plates." England cannot boast of such eminent workmen as can Germany or France, yet we have some notable names on our list. William Marshall, the frontispiece engraver of the seventeenth century, signs the Lyttleton book plate before referred to. John Pine executed a fine allegoric book plate in 1715, when he was a young man of five-and-twenty, for placing in the volumes which George I. gave to the University of Cambridge. Mr. Leicester Warren thus describes the plate:—"The design represents a vast structure, rather like an ormolu chimney-piece clock, of which the arms of the University of Cambridge, in a plain solid frame, represent the face. Behind this towers up a vast pyramid, on which

the brick work is distinctly marked. As dexter supporter stands Phœbus Apollo in person, reaching out a wreath. A clouded sun rays out behind him. At his feet are deposited samples of the book collection of late so munificently bestowed. As sinister supporter sits Minerva with helm, spear, and gorgon-headed shield. Her feet are wrapt in cloud. In the centre of the bracket beneath these gods is inserted a medallion portrait of royal George . . . A very pompous piece of work." Pine engraved some other book plates, one from a design by Gravelot, as late as 1740; he died in 1756. George Vertue also *stooped* to book plate engraving, and a delightful design by which Henrietta, Countess of Oxford, distinguished her own volumes, is his work. Allegory here again plays an important part, but its figures are not sombre and motionless as those which guard the arms of Cambridge University. Minerva is busy instructing a school of cupids—some painting, some singing, some weaving flowery festoons—in an apartment at either Brampton or Welbeck. Through a doorway, on either side of which are Corinthian columns, we obtain a view of a country house standing back in a well-kept park, through which meanders a river crossed by a three-arched bridge. Lady Oxford was heiress of John Holles, last Duke of Newcastle of that family, and married Edward, second Earl of Oxford, with whom Vertue used to travel to various parts of the country and sketch objects of interest for his noble companion. Horace Walpole speaks of Vertue having engraved this book plate, which he calls a "plate to put in Lady's Oxford's books." It bears the engraved inscription, "Henrietta Cavendish Holles, Oxford and Mortimer, given me," and then Lady Oxford has added, in her own handwriting, the word "by," and the donor's name and date.

W. J. HARDY, F.S.A.

(To be continued.)



Notes on the Libraries at Windsor Castle and Eton College.¹

I. *The Queen's Library at Windsor Castle.*

THE Royal Library was collected by William IV., who found himself at his accession without a library, the old one, collected at great cost by George III., having been transferred to the nation. It is now in the British Museum. The present Royal Library contains a few books of great value, reserved when the old collection was transferred. Among them is the Mentz Psalter of 1457, the earliest book *with a date*. This copy is found to be, by recent collation, the most perfect one known, as it is almost untouched. The Florence Homer (on paper), both volumes. The Sarum Missal, vellum, Rouen, 1497. *The Doctrynal of Sapience*, Caxton, on vellum—at one time the only vellum Caxton known, and still unique, having a supplemental chapter. The *Æsop* of Caxton, with unique frontispiece; and one leaf of *The Historye of Charles the Greate*, by Caxton, a copy of which—the only one known—is in the British Museum. The Library has a fine collection of *editiones principes*; most of these were bought by Mr. Glover, the first librarian of the new library, whose labour and judgment it would be hard to over praise. His quarter of a century of office saw the collection gradually increase, and in many important departments—such as history and topography (the latter chiefly English)—it became a fine and complete collection of standard and valuable works. Under the same care was deposited what is still the most precious treasure of the library—the great collection of original drawings and engravings collected by George III. These, with the royal collection of miniatures, are preserved in a separate room, and near to them is the great and costly collection of works on fine art, which is carefully kept up to the present day in the same manner in which every attention is paid to the collections of English history and topography, which

(¹) A paper read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Reading, September, 1890.

with family history and genealogy form the largest and best represented classes of literature. In the last five-and-twenty years many and very important additions have been made. The total number of volumes in the library may be now roughly estimated at 100,000, but it is not probable this rate of increase will be continued. Want of room prohibits this. Of late years a considerable number of books in fine old bindings, chiefly royal, have been added. One is specially interesting, being the first edition of Spenser's *Fairy Queen* in the old royal binding. This may have been the copy read by Queen Elizabeth in the very gallery where it is now again preserved. The old MSS. of the sovereigns of England have all departed, and are at the British Museum.

II. *The Eton College Library.*

Though this cannot of course compare with the great University or College Libraries, yet it contains treasures of extreme value, and is very interesting as storing the accumulations of three centuries of learning, taste and industry. It is a very good specimen of an eighteenth-century library, *i.e.*, of what was then regarded as the most suitable collection of books for a place devoted to learning. Since the close of that century it has received, comparatively speaking, but few accessions.

Six years after the foundation of the college, William of Waynflete, 1486, then Provost, together with the Fellows of Eton, combined with the Provost and Fellows of King's College, Cambridge, in a petition to the king, begging that he would commission his chaplain, Richard Chester, in common with the King's Stationer, "to inquire and diligently inserche and gete knowledge where bokes onourments and other necessities for the said colleges may be founden to selle."

The next epoch of importance is that of the Provostship of Sir H. Savile, 1596-1622. Since the reign of Edward VI. little had been done, but Savile, profiting by the lately founded library of Sir Thomas Bodley, despatched a carpenter to Oxford, and introduced improvements from thence into the Eton Library. The growth of the library at this time is attested by the entries in the Audit Books, which are tolerably numerous, under the head of "*Librarie*," for the years 1603-22. The sums spent include payments to Joyce the waterman, and sums for wharfage and custom, the books being conveyed from London by

river. There is frequent record, too, of payments for "ryvitinge of chaines, and one for byndinge Chrysostom, given by Mr. ye Provost." This was Savile's own magnificent edition of Chrysostom, in eight folio volumes, the labour of three years—the first work of learning on a great scale published in England—issued from the Eton press established by Sir Henry in the house at present occupied by the Head Master. The particulars have often been told: how he spared no expense (the whole cost amounting to £8,000); and how he procured from Holland his fount of type called the "silver letter."

The library would naturally be an object of interest to Sir H. Savile's next successor but one in the Provostship—Sir Henry Wotton. We may feel tolerably sure that some of the Italian MSS., and several rare Italian books, were contributed by him. For the curious in heraldry there is a MS. entitled *Venetorum nobilium insignia*, with numerous coloured coats of arms, probably brought by him from Venice. The original copies of his letters written from thence during his embassy are preserved. They extend from 1617 to 1620, many of them addressed to James I., whose favour he first won by apprising him of the plot against his life.

The College Library received much attention at the beginning of the eighteenth century. It is from 1728 that the present building dates. The next stage in its existence, and the last important accession which it has received, was in 1799, when it was enriched by the very valuable legacy of Anthony Morris Storer, of Purley, a contemporary at Eton of C. J. Fox, and the ancestor of the present owner of Purley Park, who bears the same name. The total number of books is about 23,000. The chief interest centres round: (i.) the MSS.; (ii.) Bibles, Theology, and Theological Tracts; (iii.) the Caxtons; (iv.) early printed and other editions of the Classics; (v.) rare books of History, Political Tracts, and Travels; (vi.) early English and Foreign publications. In the last four branches the Storer Collection is specially rich, and in some respects forms the most valuable portion of the library.

The MSS.—Of these there are upwards of one hundred, but many are of quite a late date. The majority belong to the thirteenth century. Several of them are beautifully illuminated, and written in bold characters; most of them are in good preservation. To a Vulgate given by Matthias de St. Alban, a solemn anathema is attached on any one who should remove it. The

sources of the Eton MSS. would seem to be North Italy, North France, the Levant, and some English monasteries. The oldest is an Ovid, known as the Codex Langobardicus, assigned to the eleventh century. The others that are most noticeable are (i.) a very beautiful French Bible on vellum, folio, commencing with the Proverbs, the first volume being absent. This came from Dr. Meyrick's Library. Its date is probably the last quarter of the fourteenth century. (ii.) A MS. of Matthew of Westminster. This, in the opinion of the late Sir F. Madden, was the identical copy from which Archbishop Parker printed his first edition in 1567. It has marginal notes in his handwriting throughout, in one of which is the date 1562. (iii.) A very fine folio MS. of Dante (fifteenth century) with some peculiar readings. (iv.) A curious MS. record in Latin of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Cambridge in 1564. (v.) Tirolli's *Antiquitates*, a piece of German work of Henry VIII.'s time, being a series of historical scenes and figures finely illuminated. (vi.) There is also at Eton one-half of a valuable collection of Oriental MSS., extending over many volumes. The remaining portion is at King's College, Cambridge.

Of Bibles I need only mention (i.) the *Cethubhim* or *Hagiographa*, Naples (1487), printed on vellum one year earlier than the first complete Hebrew Bible; (ii.) a grand copy of the well-known Mazarine or Mentz Bible; (iii.) a large collection of versions of the Scriptures in many modern languages; and (iv.) three of Barker's, known as the "Breeches" Bible (1578, 1597, 1599).

In theology the library is naturally well represented, much in this branch having been given by Waddington, a Fellow, and afterwards Bishop of Chichester. The Benedictine editions of the Fathers are very fine, and a probably unique copy of Archbishop Parker's *De Antiquitate Britannica Ecclesia*, London, 1572, 4to, claims a word. It contains among other peculiarities a print of Archbishop Parker. And to become master of a copy with this original engraving was the despair of Dibdin.

There are three genuine Caxtons! They were part of Storer's bequest, and were exhibited at the Caxton celebration in 1877. They are (i.) *Les Fais du Jason*; (ii.) *The History of Reynard*; (iii.) Tully: *Of Old Age, of Friendship, and the Declamation of Noblesse*. The first of these is the only copy in England. There are two in Paris.

Of other *incunabula*—which are numerous and valuable—one

must speak but briefly. Eton is fortunate in possessing two copies of the Florentine *editio princeps* of Homer; also two celebrated quartos, Apollonius Rhodius, and the *Anthology*, printed in Greek capitals, as well as many beautiful Aldines and representative issues of the early presses of Milan, Basle, and Paris. Rare grammatical and antiquarian works abound, and I may mention several catalogues and descriptions of old continental libraries, *e.g.*, at Padua, Venice, Vienna, Augsburg, and Leyden.

The erudition of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is well reflected in this library.

I must not omit to say, before leaving it, that there is a considerable collection of Shakespeare quartos, besides the three first folios; a copy of the first edition of *Paradise Lost*; and the unique copy of Udall's *Ralph Roister Doyster*, discovered in 1818. There is also an extensive collection of political tracts, ranging over nearly a century (1642-1731); a complete series of Hearne's volumes, and an almost complete set of Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill publications.

Eton College Library abounds, I should add, in illustrated historical works and valuable engravings, and also in numerous and exquisite specimens of the binder's art, including the designs of Grolier, and much work of Le Gascon, De Rome, and Roger Payne.

The sources of the library I have already in part indicated. It is the result less of constant purchase (indeed very little has been laid out on it for many generations, and it has no fund) than of the particular collections formed at different periods by former members and lovers of the college, and of the gifts of a few munificent donors, such as Anthony Storer and Bishop Waddington. I will only add one further point of interest attaching to this in common with many old libraries, *viz.*, that in several of its volumes may be seen the autographs and autograph notes of eminent men—scholars, or lovers of literature—*e.g.*, De Thou, Isaac Voss, and Casaubon.

F. ST. J. THACKERAY, F.S.A.



Letters of Junius.

The Ledger of the *Public Advertiser* from Jan. 1765, to Dec. 1771, showing the effect of the publication of the letters of "Junius" on the sale of the paper, has been deposited in the Chelsea Public Library by Sir Charles Dilke. It is in the handwriting of Henry Sampson Woodfall, the editor and printer, who resided in Lombard Street, Chelsea, during the last twelve years of his life, and was buried in the churchyard of the Old Church, 1805, his monument standing near the east door.

Relics of John Keats.

The following most interesting relics of John Keats have been deposited by the Right Hon. Sir Charles W. Dilke, Bart., in the Chelsea Public Library, and are to be exhibited in the Reference Library.

[The references are to Forman's edition of *Keats' Works* (H 163 R) and to *Dilke's Papers of a Critic* (H 157 R).]

- 1 Livy, presented to Keats by Archdeacon Bailey. The inscription on the fly-leaf reads "B. Bailey, Magdalen Hall, Oxon, presents this volume to his friend John Keats, July, 1818."
- 2 Keats' copy of Bacon's "Advancement of Learning"—with his Notes, mostly made when young, probably at school. This book was taken to New Zealand by the present Major Charles Brown, son of Charles Armitage Brown, and was there partly eaten by rats.
- 3 Keats' copy of Lempriere.
- 4 Keats' copy of Ovid. London, 1806. With his autograph.
- 5 Keats' Note-Book when a Medical Student.
- 6 Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Edin., 1807. 2 vols. With MS. Notes by Keats. Vol. 2 contains inscription to Mrs. Dilke by Keats, and the first draft of the sonnet to Sleep. The Notes are printed in Forman's *Keats*, vol. 3.
- 7 Dramatic Works of Ben Jonson and Beaumont and Fletcher. London, 1811. v. 2, 3, and 4, containing Beaumont and Fletcher only. Given to Keats by his brother George, and afterwards in the possession of Charles Brown, Keats' friend. The title of volume 2 is inscribed "Geo. Keats to his affectionate brother John," and each vol. has the autograph, "Charles Brown" on the title-page. Vol 4, p. 320 (blank) has the ode "Bards of Passion and of Mirth," and p. 356 (blank) the song "Spirit here that reigneth!" both in Keats' writing. (Forman v. 2, p. 127 and p. 243).
- 8 Portion of a letter from Major Brown of Taranaki to Sir Charles W. Dilke, relative to Keats' copy of Beaumont and Fletcher. Major Brown is a son of Charles Brown, Keats' friend.
- 9 Keats' *Endymion*. The Original Edition. 1818. Presented to the Library by Sir Charles W. Dilke.
- 10 Love-Letter from Keats to Fanny Brawne. (Forman v. 4, p. 178).
- 10A Love-Letter to Fanny Brawne. Post-scriptum fragment. (Forman, v. 4, p. 180).
- 11 Letter from Keats to his brother Thomas during the Scotch Tour. July 17 [1818] (Forman, v. 3, p. 187).
- 12 Humorous Letter to Mr. and Mrs. Dilke, written by Keats and Charles Brown jointly, dated Bedhampton, 24th Jan., 1819. (Dilke, v. 1, p. 8. Forman, v. 3, p. 260.)
- 13 Letter from Charles Brown relative to Keats' tour in Scotland and to his illness, addressed to Sir Charles Dilke's great Grandfather, dated Inverness, 7th Aug., 1818. (Dilke, v. 1, p. 3, Forman, v. 3, p. 360.)
- 14 Letter from Keats to Mr. Dilke. [Postmark, 21 September, 1818.] (Forman, v. 3, p. 223. Dilke, v. 1, p. 6.)
- 15 Letter from Keats to Mr. Dilke asking him to take rooms in Westminster. Winchester, 1 Oct. [1819]. (Forman, v. 4, p. 34.)
- 16 Letter from Keats to Mr. Dilke. [Postmark, Mar. 4, 1820. Forman, v. 4, p. 70.)

- 17 Letter from Leigh Hunt to Keats. (Dilke, v. 1, p. 9. Forman, v. 4, p. 100.)
 - 18 Letter to Keats from B. W. Procter ("Barry Cornwall") sending "Marcian Colonna." (Dilke, v. 1, p. 10. Forman, v. 4, p. 71.)
 - 19 Elegy on the Death of Keats, by B. W. Procter ("Barry Cornwall"). (Dilke, v. 1, p. 12.)
 - 20 Letter from C. and J. Ollier, Keats' Publishers, to his brother George, 29th April, 1817. (Forman, v. 1, p. 348.)
 - 21 Letter from Charles Brown to Fanny Brawne, asking leave to publish certain letters and poems of Keats. Dated Florence, 17th Dec. 1829.
 - 22 Letter from Mrs. Georgina Keats (née Wylie) to Mrs. Dilke (undated). (Forman, v. 1, p. 70, Sonnet to G. A. W.)
 - 23 Letter from Henry R. Wylie, enclosing extract from a letter by George Keats, dated 26th Nov., 1836, in which he asks for Mr. Dilke's assistance in publishing a memoir of Keats.
 - 24 Letter from Joseph Severn to Mr. Dilke, relative to Keats' Monument, and suggesting new epitaph, dated 3rd Feb. [1859].
 - 25 Fac-simile by the photo-intaglio process, of the charcoal portrait of Keats, by Severn, now in the Forster Collection, South Kensington Museum. (Forman, v. 1, p. xxxiv.)
 - 26 Fac-simile of a page of Haydon's Journal, being a sketch for the portrait of Keats, introduced into Haydon's picture of "Christ's entry into Jerusalem." (Forman, v. 1, p. xxxv.)
 - 27 Fac-simile of a further page of Haydon's Journal, the lower part of which shows the attitude of the figure with Keats' portrait. (Forman, v. 1, p. xxxv.)
 - 28 Mask moulded during Keats' life-time. Probably by Haydon. (Forman, v. 1, p. xxxvi.)
 - 29 Bust of Keats. Published by P. MacDowell, Sept. 9, 1828.
 - 30 Locket containing Keats' hair, cut from his head after death.
 - 31 Keats' Pocket Book.
 - 32 Shakespeare, 1808. Facsimile reprint of the first folio. Belonged to Keats and contains his notes, a sonnet "On sitting down to read King Lear once again," and an ode "On seeing a lock of Milton's hair." (Forman, v. 3, p. 2 *et seq.*)
 - 33 Shakespeare's Poetical Works. London, 1806. Given to Keats by John Hamilton Reynolds. Contains Keats' notes and two sonnets, one being "Bright Star, would I were steadfast as thou art," the last poem of Keats. (Forman v. 2, p. 361, with facsimile.)
 - 34 Letter from Keats to Mr. Dilke, expressing his resolution to take to magazine writing [Sept. 22, 1819]. (Forman v. 3, p. 331.)
 - 35 Letter to Mr. Dilke from Keats while he was staying with an artist friend in the Isle of Wight. Dated Shanklin, Saturday evening. [Postmark, 2 August, 1819]. (Forman, v. 3, p. 313.)
 - 36 Letter from Keats to Mr. Dilke asking him to send "Sybilline Leaves" by bearer. Dated Nov., 1817. (Forman, v. 3, p. 86.)
 - 37 Letter from Keats to Mr. Dilke written shortly before he died, telling him that he has a choice of two things—South America, or surgeon to an Indiaman, which last he thinks will be his fate. [1820?] (Forman v. 4, p. 82.)
 - 38 Letter from Keats to Mrs. Brawne, written while in quarantine in the Bay of Naples. Dated Naples Harbour, Oct. 24 [1820]. (Forman, v. 4, p. 108.)
- NOTE.—The Mr. Dilke to whom Keats wrote the letters is the grandfather of the present Sir Charles W. Dilke.

Frederick Egmond.

Readers of *The Library* may perchance remember an article entitled "Frederick Egmond, an English Fifteenth Century Stationer," which appeared in the previous volume.¹ M. L. Delisle, the learned "chief" of the great French National Library, in a paper entitled "Le Libraire Frédéric D'Egmont et la Marque Parisienne aux initiales F.E. et I.B.,"²

¹ Vol. II., pp. 210-216.

² Bibliothèque de l'École des chartes, tome li., pp. 305-309.

has reviewed Mr. E. Gordon Duff's article, and continues the investigation so ably begun by the latter. M. Delisle commences by recapitulating the facts as stated by Mr. Gordon Duff, taking care to call attention to his discovery, "avec beaucoup de sagacité," of the connection between the English stationer and the books printed in Paris bearing the device with initials F. E. and I. B. He remarks that the device in question has been long known to French bibliographers, but that the interpretation of the initials was unknown until Mr. Gordon Duff's article appeared. In order to complete the information on the subject, M. Delisle has given the collations of books in the National Library which bear that device. These are (1) the Virgil; (2) *Aureum opus de veritate contritionis*, by John Louis Vivaldus, 1517; (3) *Dormi Secure*, 1527, referred to by Mr. Duff as quoted by Brunet; and (4) a fragment of a volume not yet identified.

M. Delisle suggests that the copy of the *Dormi Secure* in the British Museum, mentioned by Mr. Duff, dated 1520, is a copy of the edition of 1527 with the last figures of the date (vii.) scraped out. It is quite true that they present "la plus grande analogie," but a careful examination of the copy in the British Museum and a comparison with M. Delisle's collation establishes the independence of the two editions, and there is not the slightest appearance of erasure in the date.

The fragment mentioned by M. Delisle demands more particular attention. It is only part of a title-page and is stated to furnish "une adresse bibliographique plus complète que celle des autres livres ornés de la même marque typographique: 'Venundantur Parisiis ab Jahanne (*sic*) Parvo, in vico Sancti Jacobi sub intersignio Floris lilii.'" This raises a fresh difficulty, for as Petit was only a stationer it would make Egmond and I. B. the printers of the book. If the device and address are on two fragments of paper the presumption is that they belong to different works, and this is the only suggestion I can offer.

Mr. Gordon Duff, since the publication of his article, has called my attention to a copy of the *Aureum Opus* of 1517 in the British Museum, and also the title-page of a later edition of the same book. It is probable, as M. Delisle remarks at the close of his paper, that other books printed for Egmond will be discovered; "Possibly," he continues, "they will furnish us with the complete solution of a little bibliographical problem on which the observations of Mr. E. Gordon Duff have already thrown so much light."

At the present time we know of three books and one fragment with the device of Egmond in the French National Library, while the British Museum has four books and one fragment. The *Dormi Secure* of 1527 is the only book bearing the mark which they have at Paris, but is not in the British Museum. The impossibility of discovering what the British Museum possesses by any other means than by sheer accident was never better exemplified than in the case of the books bearing the device with the initials F. E. and I. B. We must wait for chance to enlarge our knowledge, while in Paris M. Delisle can definitely cite at once the books with the peculiar device contained in the Bibliothèque Nationale.

J. P. EDMOND.

Jottings.

Just as we are going to press a new book has been placed in our hands entitled *A Plea for Liberty, an argument against Socialism and Socialistic legislation, consisting of an introduction by Herbert Spencer, and Essays by various writers, edited by Thomas Mackay*, 8vo (Murray). Its presumed claim on the attention of THE LIBRARY lies in the fact

that it contains an article on "Free Libraries." We have read the article, but it is impossible to treat the book in this number with the seriousness and respect that a work introduced by Mr. Herbert Spencer demands. We shall, however, endeavour next month to dispose of it with fitting ceremony.

Calling names is much easier than argument, and with the mob is even more effective. Lawyers recognise this in their dictum, "When you have a weak case abuse your opponent," and a person signing himself "M. D. O'Brien," working upon this method, has produced some very fair and we trust remunerative "copy" in the shape of the aforesaid article on "Free Libraries."

We don't understand Socialism, and we frankly confess we can't always understand Mr. Herbert Spencer, but we do know something about Free Libraries and the Library Association, and if the principle of *ab uno disce omnes* is a sound one, and the other essays are on a par with "Free Libraries," we are bound to come to the conclusion that *A Plea for Liberty* is a farrago of wild theory and misstatement.

It is an easy matter to find out all about the Library Association, and yet in the space of a couple of pages Mr. O'Brien contrives to misstate every fact worth knowing about it, and then after deliberately saying the things which are not, he proceeds to abuse the members of that body. They are bureaucrats, fanatics and high priests of Socialism. It is all very funny, but we are really sorry for Mr. O'Brien and his colleagues, for their misfortune is that they were not born 150 years ago. This would have been a real advantage to themselves, and for the sake of that we should have tried to bear without repining the loss to our own generation.

We have received a mysterious little book which has greatly excited our curiosity. Its title runs: *Sir Affluent Cosmopolitan, a Reminiscence, by the President of the Society of Bibliosaniacs*. It is beautifully printed on hand-made paper, with a vellum cover, and is "printed for the Society" by Messrs. Davy, who have apparently taken an oath of secrecy, for they absolutely refuse to give any clue that would lead to the identity of either society or author.

The "prefatory note" tells us that the Society was founded "some time ago" (smacks of "once upon a time") for the purpose of studying not bibliography, but bibliographers and book-hunters. We further learn that the Society contains only ten members, or rather "volumes," and that their proceedings always begin with a dinner.

"At the second meeting held at the house of the President ("Vol. I."), the members dined and afterwards listened to an elegant paper by the President upon his old friend, the late Sir Affluent Cosmopolitan, a famous book buyer of his time . . . and it was resolved to print the paper and issue it to the members."

The paper on Sir Affluent is well written, with a pleasant suggestion of John Hill Burton, but whether the subject of the memoir was a real personage or is merely a type, is a point we are unable to settle. We trust the promise of a series will be fulfilled, and in the meantime would suggest that Mr. Thomas Mason, who is a dweller in the parish in which the booklet is published, should endeavour to penetrate the mystery which surrounds it.

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Geschichte der Buchdruckerkunst in Riga, 1588-1888. Von Arend Buchholtz. *Riga: Müllersche Buchdruckerei*, 1890. pp. viii., 377.

In honour of the tercentenary of the introduction of printing at Riga Dr. Buchholtz has compiled a most thorough and exhaustive monograph on the history of the art in Riga. The earliest printed book in the Town Library is Schoiffer's 1470 edition of the Epistles of St. Jerome, and it was in 1470 also that fifteen Psalters and twenty copies of the Canon of the Mass were ordered for the use of the Diocese. But though Riga was thus ready to welcome the new art, it was long before it could offer sufficient prospects of a livelihood to encourage any printer to take up his quarters in the town. When the Archbishop in 1513 desired to have a printed edition of the Riga Breviary, the commission was given to W. Korven, of Amsterdam, and it was here and at Rostock, Lübeck, Hamburg, and Wittenberg that works were printed for the Riga market until nearly the end of the sixteenth century. The art spread but slowly through the northern towns of Germany, reaching Königsberg only in 1551, Stettin not till twelve years later, Thorn in 1568, and Greifswald in 1581. Seven years after this last date it at length arrived in Riga, mainly, we may guess, through the energy of David Hilchen, then recently appointed Chief Secretary to the *Amt*. Hilchen had been educated at Tübingen and Heidelberg, and in 1588, though still under thirty, was already beginning the career as a politician and reformer which led to his banishment in 1601, and premature death nine years later. In March, 1588, in conjunction with Oswald Groll von Grabow, he was entrusted with an embassy to King Sigismund III., and the last clause in their commission referred to the securing special privileges for a Riga printing house. The privileges were not granted at once, but in the following spring Niclas Mollyn was nevertheless appointed printer to the State. Of Mollyn's previous history nothing is known, but it is practically certain that he had learnt his art at Wittenberg, for his types and ornaments plainly proceed from the same founts as those of Johann Richter, of that town, and ever since the Reformation the relations of Riga and Wittenberg had been peculiarly close. As one of the results of a second embassy to King Sigismund the royal privilege for exclusive printing throughout the state of Riga was issued to Mollyn in May, 1590, and in the following November an agreement was made as to the terms on which he should exercise his art. By the terms of this agreement Mollyn was bound to provide all the requisites of a good printing office, and to employ a reader well versed in Latin and German, both High and Low. Sixty copies of all state publications were to be delivered free of charge, and no charge was to be made for printing secret papers—a clause happily inoperative, since there were never any secret papers to print. Furthermore, Mollyn was to abstain from printing all satires, heresies, or other improper publications. In return for these services he was guaranteed a yearly stipend of one hundred thalers, a place to print in, freedom from taxation, and a monopoly, not only of printing, but of bookselling. As regards bookselling, indeed, a temporary exception was made in favour of a certain Hildebrand Gehmann, who was already engaged in the trade. But Gehmann died in the following year, and

Molyn, who purchased his stock, was thus left without any lawful competitor, though the bookbinders at times gave him trouble by importing and selling foreign books to the infringement of his privilege. In addition to all these favours the Council further assisted Molyn by lending him 400 thalers for six years, though they charged him 6 per cent. for the loan. Thus helped and protected Molyn continued in business for no less than thirty-seven years (1588-1625), printing during that time 160 works which have come down to us, besides others which have perished. Of these 160 works 117 are in Latin, 40 in German, and three in Lettish. The largest number printed in any one year is 16. Classifying them again, by subjects, 37 are found to belong to Theology, 4 to Law, 14 to History, 15 to Philosophy, while the remaining 90 are ranked together as Poetry and Fugitive Pieces. All these 160 are fully described by Dr. Buchholtz, who continues the history of the Riga press when it passed into the hands of Gerhard Schröder and his successors. A few facsimiles add to the completeness of his monograph, which is a scholarly and satisfactory piece of work, and not without interest, as illustrating the care with which the press had to be fostered and protected in places where the natural demand for its productions was only slight.

Dei Torresani, Blado e Ragazzoni, celebri stampatori a Venezia e Roma nel xv. e xvi. secolo, cogli elenchi annotati delle rispettive edizioni, per Domenico Bernoni. *Ulrico Hoepli: Milano*, 1890. 8vo, pp. viii. 403.

The common quality which brings the Torresani and Ragazzoni of Venice and the Blado of Rome within the covers of Sig. Bernoni's book is, that each of these families springs from the town of Asola, of which the author is himself an illustrious citizen. Of the Ragazzoni he has little to tell us; the account of the Blado, the foremost printers in Rome during the sixteenth century, is much fuller, and Dr. Bernoni succeeds in enhancing their fame in several small points, proving, for instance, that it was Francesco Blado and not the Florentine Giunta who could rightly claim the honour of having printed the first editions of the chief works of Machiavelli. But the main interest of Dr. Bernoni's work lies in the revised version of the account of the Torresani, which was issued (privately, we believe) seven or eight years ago, and has now been corrected and enlarged. The fame of Andrea Torresani has been so completely eclipsed by that of his partner and son-in-law, Aldus Manutius, that even if Dr. Bernoni, in his zeal for his fellow townsman, sometimes exaggerates a little on the other side, this tardy act of justice to a man who did yeoman's work in the service of printing is singularly welcome. Of Torresani's life before he came to Venice we know little more than the year of his birth (1451) and the fact of his marriage. His family was of some note at Asola, and was probably wealthy, for in 1479, soon after his arrival in Venice, he purchased the types of Nicholas Jenson. Mr. Horatio Brown, it is true, thinks that the purchase may have referred only to a set of types cast from Jenson's *matrices*, and it is certain that the great printer continued to publish until his death two years later. Possibly the contract may have been of the nature of a mortgage, and Torresani may have shared in the profits of the books thus printed. Sig. Bernoni asserts that he was the first Venetian *editore* or publisher, and even when his own press was hardest at work he frequently provided other printers with the necessary funds for fresh undertakings. Aldus arrived in Venice in 1489, and so enterprising a man as Torresani was not likely to remain long in ignorance of his merits and capabilities. Ten years later Aldus became his son-in-law by

marrying Maria Torresani, who brought him not only a moderate dowry but ready help from her father's purse for all his undertakings. Sig. Bernoni strongly maintains that Aldus was indebted to Torresani even for house room, and that the hospitalities to scholars for which he is famous were really vicarious. It is improbable, however, that this was the case for the first seven years of his married life. A letter addressed by Pico della Mirandola to Aldus "A. S. Paternian in casa di Messer Andrea de Asola che fa stampa" belongs to the year 1506, when we know that he was reduced to the greatest straits, and the evidence of the dialogue *Opulentia Sordida* in Erasmus's *Colloquies* relates to the same period. That Aldus died in the parish of S. Paternian proves nothing, for S. Paternian was the printer's quarter, and he, as well as Torresani, may have had a house there. The mention above of the *Opulentia Sordida* of Erasmus recalls us to one of the few stories about Torresani that are at all well known. During the short stay of Erasmus in Venice he was employed as a reader and adviser to the Aldine Press, and lodged with Torresani, against whose meagre table and parsimonious habits he afterwards took occasion to inveigh in one of the *Colloquies*. The names of the persons are altered, and the satire did not prevent editions of the book being printed by the Torresani, but that Torresani was the person meant can hardly be doubted, and the incident is disagreeable. A perusal of the dialogue, however, shows that the parsimony of which Erasmus complained was little more than the habitual frugality of Italian as compared with Dutch and German living, and Torresani's liberality to his native town proves that he was no miser. In 1508 his dealings with Aldus took the definite form of a partnership, to which Aldus brought his reputation, and was paid with a fifth share in all his father-in-law's goods. Henceforth Aldine books were published in *adius Aldi et Andreae soceri*, and we may conjecture that Torresani superintended the business details, while Aldus was responsible for the scholarship. But when the more learned partner died in 1515 Torresani, in a singularly modest and affectionate preface to the *Ptolemy* of 1516, expressed his intention to maintain the high reputation of the firm, and until his death in 1529 he laboured unremittingly, and with no small success in this attempt. Sig. Bernoni gives a long list of the editions published by Torresani in which Aldus had no share, and though in reading this book some allowance must be made for the author's evident desire to claim as much as possible for his fellow townsman, there can be no doubt that Torresani's enterprise and liberality have hitherto met with something less than due acknowledgment.

F. Eyssenhardt. Mittheilungen aus der Stadtbibliothek zu Hamburg. vii. 1890. 8vo, pp. 108.

The number opens with a letter of Lucas Holstenius, followed by a number of documents illustrating Mexico under Spanish dominion. The remainder of the part is occupied with an account of Hamburg in the preceding century by an Englishman, and the usual report on the management of the State Library. The gifts have been many and valuable. 12,542 vols. were made use of by 4,557 readers, and 7,486 vols. were lent to 584 borrowers.

Verzeichniss der Bibliotheken mit gegen 50,000 und mehr Bänden. I. Deutschland, Oesterreich-Ungarn, Schweiz, England, Nord-Amerika. Von P. E. Richter, Bibliothekar an der Königl. Bibliothek in Dresden. Leipzig, n.d. [1890]. 8vo, pp. 32.

The first part of this list of the larger libraries of the world, besides stating the names of the institutions, gives the number of volumes, amount

of income available for purchases, and special features of the collections so far as they have been supplied by the different librarians. The following comparisons can be made : Germany's fifty largest libraries possess about 12,700,000 volumes ; England's about 6,450,000 ; North America's about 6,100,000. But so long as the count is made on so many different principles, or merely guessed at, these figures are of little value, more especially in the largest libraries.

Public Library Note Book. List of Books Wanted, and Remarks on those Read, with Preface by Hew Morrison, Chief Librarian, Public Library, Edinburgh. *Edinburgh and London* : Geo. Waterston and Sons. Fcap 8vo, oblong. Price 3d., or limp cloth lettered, 6d.

The very short preface explains that the main purpose of this book is to save readers in public libraries the time and trouble of so frequently making up lists of books wanted for reading. Mr. Morrison naively remarks that "even in the most popular institution the books entered in the Note Book may be obtained some day ;" but we fear he should have said "with great perseverance," for "a little perseverance" is understating the difficulties experienced by readers in public libraries. The idea is a good one, and if properly kept the record should have a healthy influence on even the most desultory of readers.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required. Written notes or authenticated newspaper cuttings are more welcome than whole newspapers.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be forwarded.

BLACKBURN.—A CORRECTION. In last issue, in referring to the bequest which had been made to this library, the name "Atkinson" was mentioned. This is a mistake—the name is Ainsworth.

BOLTON.—Alderman B. A. Dobson formally opened the new library and museum at Mere Hall, Bolton, on Dec. 20th. The hall, together with several acres of land adjoining, was presented to the town by Mr. J. P. Thomasson, formerly M.P. for the borough.

BOOTLE.—On December 6th, 1890, Richard Stephenson Godsoe was charged before the Bootle magistrates with stealing from the Corporation Free Library on the 4th December a paper entitled *The Alliance News*, and valued at one penny. Mr. J. H. Farmer prosecuted, and said that in consequence of papers being frequently missed during the past few days from the Free Library, the attendants had been put on the watch. John Sharrock, the janitor, saw the prisoner take the paper from the rack in the news-room, proceed to a table apparently to read it, and soon after go out. He looked in the rack and on the table for the paper, but not seeing it followed the prisoner out, brought him back to the library and

found the missing paper in his pocket. Subsequently Godsoe was handed over to the police. Prisoner said he did not know he had the paper. It was stated for the defence that prisoner had suffered from sunstroke some time ago, and since had not always been accountable for his actions. The bench bound the prisoner over in his own recognisances to come up for sentence when called upon.

BOOTLE.—The Tuesday evening lectures, given under the auspices of the Library and Museum Committee, are very popular here. On January 13th, Mr. Briscoe, public librarian of Nottingham, lectured to a large and attentive audience on "Bells and their Associations," with limelight illustrations.

BRADFORD.—The Gas Committee of the Bradford Corporation have resolved to devote £500 of its profits to the purposes of the free libraries.

DARLSTON.—Mr. James Slater, Chairman of the Free Library Committee, has issued a circular stating that the effort to free the library buildings from debt has been successful, the whole of the rate, about £90, being thereby set free for the purposes of the institution; and asking that, as the newspapers, magazines, and periodicals, and the librarian's salary will absorb the whole of that sum, £300 may be provided for the purchase of new books. The following subscriptions have already been promised:—The Misses Mills, Mr. E. Horton, Mr. J. Slater, and F. W. Cotterill (Limited), £25 each; and Mr. J. F. Adams, £20.

DUMBARTON.—We have to chronicle the death of Mr. T. G. P. Walker, librarian, Public Library, Dumbarton. Mr. Walker was appointed to this post two years ago, and was a young man of great promise. His early death is mourned by a large circle of friends.

KENDAL.—The question of the promotion of a free library for this town has again been brought forward. Some time ago the offer of Mr. Swinglehurst to give a library for public use was declined by the Corporation.

LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.—Over £2,000 has been subscribed towards a technical school and free library for Leigh. An excellent modern reference library, now in the possession of the Leigh Literary Society, will be handed over to the town so soon as it has adopted the Libraries Act.

LEOMINSTER.—On January 7th the Committee of the Reading Room Association submitted their fifth annual report at the annual general meeting of the members. It showed a balance in hand, and pointed out that the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts for a second time by a conclusive majority confirmed the statement made by the committee last year, viz, that there was a demand in Leominster for a reading room on a strictly non-political and unsectarian basis. It was agreed to continue the Association for another year, as it was uncertain how long a time would elapse before the free library and its reading room would be in working order.

LONDON: LEWISHAM.—Mr. Harding's generous presentation to the Lewisham Public Libraries Commissioners of a building and a library at Catford has been followed by a donation from Mr. C. W. Rabbits of £1,000 towards the formation of a library nearer the Sydenham end of the parish, and land in Dartmouth-road, Forest Hill, is suggested as suitable for the purpose. A proposal is under discussion to purchase

Union Chapel, High Street, Lewisham, for the purpose of a third library. The Hon. Canon Legge, Mr. A. W. Hiscox, the Misses Cottrell, Miss Weston, and other ladies and gentlemen have promised contributions of books. Mr. C. W. Goss, sub-librarian at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has been appointed librarian.

LONDON : PADDINGTON FREE LIBRARY (Supported by Voluntary Contributions).—The third Annual Meeting was held in the Vestry Hall, on Saturday, January 17th, when Dr. Garnett (British Museum) presided in the absence of Lord Coleridge owing to ill-health. The report stated that the building had been opened during the year 306 full days and 55 half days, and it was estimated that 64,775 visits had been paid by the public during those times. The receipts amounted to £413 and the expenditure to £426, the deficit having been met by special donations. The Chairman thought it was an anomaly that so wealthy and intelligent a borough should not have seen its way to relieve the private subscribers of the burden they had taken upon themselves with regard to the library, when the results of free libraries had been so successfully apparent in the poorer districts. He dwelt on the good work that these institutions were doing, and declared that they had a claim upon the nation. It was moved by Mr. John Aird, seconded by Mr. Frederic Harrison, and carried unanimously :—"That this meeting requests the President and Vice-Presidents of the Paddington Free Public Library, together with the Members of Parliament for the Borough, to form a special committee, with power to add to their number, to consider the most effective means of submitting to the ratepayers the application of the Public Libraries Acts." After the official business was disposed of the visitors were entertained at a *conversazione* and an excellent concert, vocal and instrumental, for which M. Tivadar Natchez and other distinguished artists most kindly gave their services. Mr. Frank Moss, the hon. secretary, is to be congratulated on his skill in so happily blending business with pleasure.

LONDON : ST. MARYLEBONE.—Another effort is to be made during February to get the Acts adopted in Marylebone. It is three years since the last attempt was made, and it is thought that the growth of feeling in favour of the movement, coupled with the good work done by the two voluntary libraries, afford reasonable grounds for trying again with a fair prospect of success. There is, however, still a considerable amount of ignorance and antipathy opposed to a library scheme in any form. The librarian, Mr. W. E. Doubleday, will be very glad to receive offers of assistance, and no doubt a large number of canvassers will be required to crown the movement with success. The result of this poll will exercise great influence in the neighbouring parishes of Paddington, Willesden, St. Pancras, and Hampstead, in all of which places the library movement is only waiting for a favourable opportunity.

LONDON : ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.—Mr. Gladstone has consented to open the Free Public Library of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, which has recently been erected at the Charing-cross end of St. Martin's lane. The ceremony is fixed to take place on Thursday, February 12th, at two o'clock. The commissioners have arranged to open the Library for public use on Monday, February 16th, 1891, and have issued a handbill directing the attention of parishioners to the rules, regulations and privileges of the library.

LONDON : STREATHAM.—The Commissioners appointed on January 27th, Mr. Thomas Everatt, of the Edward Pease Library, Darlington, librarian ; and Mr. J. Cogswell of the Twickenham Free Library to the post of sub-librarian.

NORWICH.—On January 12th the second of a series of popular lectures was given in Blackfriars Hall, by G. C. Davies, Esq., author of "On Dutch Waterways," and other works; subject, "Sketches of Life and Scenery Abroad." The sheriff of Norwich presided, and over 400 were present. At the January committee meeting it was announced that Alderman J. Freeman, who had been its chairman for many years and who died last November, had left a legacy to the Free Library of £20.

NOTTINGHAM MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—The Committee of this large and deservedly popular institution have again shewn their desire to improve and educate the popular taste by giving a series of organ recitals on Saturday afternoons. The first series of six recitals by Mr. E. H. Lemaire, F.C.O., were concluded on January 17th, and owing to the popularity which these recitals have already attained the Committee announce a further series of six recitals to follow the first. The recitals commence at 3.30 p.m., and last about an hour.

NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—We are informed by Mr. J. T. Radford, the hon. sec. of this Association, that the next meeting will be held at the University College, Nottingham, on Thursday, February 12th, 1891.

Opening of the Chelsea Public Library.

The new Central Library for the parish of Chelsea, in Manresa Road, was opened on January 22nd, by Earl Cadogan. The Rev. F. Relton presided over the opening meeting. There were also present on the platform the Archdeacon of London, Lord and Lady Wentworth, Mr. C. Whitmore, M.P., and Mr. G. Osborn. The chairman said it had not taken long to erect the building, for the foundation stone was only laid in February of last year. The freehold of the site had been generously given to the parish by Lord Cadogan as well as £350 worth of books. Between £5,000 and £6,000 worth of books had also been bestowed by Sir Charles Dilke, who was likewise the donor of an interesting collection of relics of the poet Keats. Further help to the library had been received from Lady Lindsay, Mr. Osborn and Mrs. Wickham Flower. Earl Cadogan, in declaring the library open, said the attendance in the temporary rooms during the time they were open should encourage them to expect a largely increased roll of visitors now this edifice was ready for the use of the reading public of Chelsea. They owed a debt of gratitude to the vestry for its patriotism and generosity in allowing two of its rooms to be utilised gratis as a library during the last three years. Every effort had been made to secure as wide a range as possible in the selection of books, and he thought that altogether the library was one of which the inhabitants of Chelsea might be justly proud. The building is a handsome and spacious one, comprising a news room, lending library, reference library, reading room, ladies' room, boys' room, and students' room. The principal reading room, in which the opening ceremony took place, is 100 feet long, and is adorned with six columns of solid Devon marble, the floor being in oak block parquet. The room accommodates 220 readers. The lending library is designed to hold 30,000 volumes, and this department opens with 8,000. The boys' room, the only one of the kind in London, accommodates forty youths at one time, and a similar number has been provided for in the ladies' reading room. The reference library and students' reading rooms are approached by a fine wide staircase, also adorned with marble columns, as well as by sculpture models, the gift of

Mr. Henry Young, one of the Library Commissioners. The reference library accommodates 100 readers, and is lighted by two large windows and a central dome, the roof being supported by four columns of scagliola. This department is constructed to contain 50,000 volumes, a tenth of that number being now on the shelves. Several of the speakers referred to the librarian, Mr. Quinn, in terms of high praise for the excellent work he had done and the power of organisation he had displayed in establishing the library.

THE SUNDAY OPENING OF FREE LIBRARIES.—Legal proceedings have been commenced against the Mayor of Leicester (Alderman Kempson) to test the legality of a decision respecting the opening of the Corporation Free Library on Sundays. The Town Council passed a resolution by a majority of one, in favour of the opening of the Art Gallery, the Town Museum, and the Free Library on Sundays, but although the committees of the Art Gallery and Town Museum acted upon the resolution of the council, the Free Library Committee have declined to consent to Sunday opening. During a very prolonged meeting of the Town Council, lasting nearly till midnight, a resolution was suddenly put applying the closure, and stopping further debate on the subject. The opponents of Sunday opening have now resolved to test the legality of the decision, and meanwhile the Free Library Committee decline to open that institution on Sundays, although both the Corporation Art Gallery and Town Museum are now open for visitors on that day.

Library Catalogues.

Bibliothèque de La Providence. Catalogue of the Library of the French Hospital, Victoria Park Road, London. By Reginald Stanley Faber, with an Introduction by Arthur Giraud Browning. 1890. 8vo, pp. xvi., 154.

In forming the library of the French Hospital the Directors have aimed at making the collection such as would illustrate the history of the French Protestants. It is only within the past few years that the effort has been made, and the beautiful privately printed catalogue dealing with 983 works in 1084 volumes is a witness to the success of the enterprise. The progress made is more remarkable when we consider that nearly the whole of the books have been presented by the Directors and their friends. In his introduction Mr. Browning cautions the reader that as yet the collection has no pretension to completeness, but the great value to students of Huguenot history in having so large a number of books on the subject brought together on the same shelves can scarcely be over-estimated. The plan adopted by Mr. Faber is the usual author catalogue with a brief classified index at the end. Numerous interesting notes are added to the entries, and when the work has been presented the donor's name is stated. The compiler has produced a catalogue which is a pleasure to look upon and to use; and if not perfect, we can only echo his own words, "Where is to be found a perfect Catalogue?"

Borough of Nottingham. Free Public Reference Library. Class List, No. 15, Bibliography, 1890. 8vo, pp. 16. Price 1d.

Mr. J. Potter Briscoe and his assistant, Mr. Paul Herring, have compiled another of those excellent Class Lists of which so many have been

noticed from time to time in our pages. The present list is of exceptional interest, and the carefulness which has characterised the former issues is well maintained. The books are subdivided into seven sections, and a name index completes the work.

Douglas Public Library. Catalogue of the Lending and Reference Departments, 1890. Cr. 8vo, pp. xvi., 380.

The ill-health of Mr. De Maine-Browne, the Librarian of the Douglas Public Library, rendered it necessary for the Committee to place the work of preparing a new catalogue in other hands. The duty was undertaken by Mr. John Taylor, Head Master of Thomas Street Wesleyan Day Schools. The compiler has adopted the dictionary plan, and a very creditable catalogue has been produced. The only fault we have to find is the great number of serious misprints which are frequently repeated under the subject entries.

Philadelphia. Bulletin of the Library Company of Philadelphia for January, 1890. New series, No. 24. Philadelphia, 1890. Demy 8vo, pp. 71.

Mr. James G. Barnwell, the librarian, here gives a classified list of the principal additions to the Loganian and Ridgway Branch of the Library Company. No attempt has been made to treat of anonyms or pseudonyms. The chief feature is the publication under the entries of "critical or explanatory notes taken from publications of recognized authority, and usually from articles which constituted the basis of the selections for purchase." This was introduced in the preceding bulletin, and gave great satisfaction to the readers.

Finding-List of the Salem Public Library, Salem, Mass., July, 1889. Royal 8vo, pp. xi., 205.

We think the practice, which is a comparatively common one in America, of issuing a preliminary list like the present might be followed with advantage by our British public librarians. There always appears to be a certain degree of feverish haste when a new library is being formed. It may be in part that the committee or commissioners are to blame for so many premature catalogues being printed; but certainly the librarian, who is or ought to be an expert in such matters, might have sufficient weight to curb this impatience to print a hurriedly prepared catalogue. The Salem *Finding-List* may be quite as expensive a production as the catalogues of many free libraries, yet the former is avowedly a "make-shift," though a most convenient one, and can be either set aside, or used side by side with any catalogue which may afterwards appear, without the reproach (internal or external) of having wasted the finances of the institution in producing a catalogue which is rendered comparatively useless within a few months owing to the large accessions made to the collection, or more commonly found to be constructed on a faulty principle and with such a crop of errors and omissions as must be inseparable from haste and inexperience. All this however is by the way, and we must now look into the principle on which the Salem *List* is prepared. It is printed in double columns, the names of authors being in small capitals, except in the "Fiction-Title List" where no difference is made in the type of the title and author's name. A short explanation pre-

cedes the list, followed by an "Index of Subjects." This is followed by a list of General Works arranged by classes, each class being a separate alphabet by authors' names. Next comes an Author List, which also includes titles of anonymous books, the latter being entered under the first word other than articles. At the end we have two lists of Fiction, the first by Title, the second by Author. The work is not an ambitious one—far from it—but so far as we see the compilation is careful, and the plan one which can be rapidly learned and brings the resources of the library within the reach of the readers with a minimum of delay.

Catalogue of the Library of the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. London, 1890. 8vo, pp. 120.

This carefully-prepared catalogue has been compiled according to the rules of the Index Society, and consists of an authors' list and a topographical index. Societies, periodicals and anonymous works are entered in the former, the last-named class of books appearing under the leading word of the title. There is always a great element of uncertainty in so dealing with anonymous works, and while we acknowledge that the compilers have produced a good catalogue according to their rules, we think it might have been improved by the adoption of a more scientific code, which would have provided a stringent rule for cataloguing the anonymous literature, a more definite rule for cross entries, and a rule for the avoidance of unnecessary capitals.

The Sunday School Union Catalogue. Library and Reading Room, 56, Old Bailey. 1890. 8vo, pp. 198.

The library consists of two divisions—reference and circulating, the former being classed under seven heads and the latter under eleven. The classification may be characterised as convenient rather than scientific. The catalogue of the "classified arrangement" is printed in full measure, followed by an "alphabetical arrangement" under authors' names in double columns. The compilation has all the appearance of having been "planned" by inexperienced persons, and has been made without regard to rules.

Maimonides Library. Report of the Librarian. . . for the year ending December 31st, 1888. New York, 1889. pp. 24.

Total number of volumes is 32,643, of which 2,781 were added during 1888. A German collection of nearly 1,000 vols. was purchased. Among the donations are many contributed in response to the appeal in behalf of the collection of materials relating to American Jewish History. During 1888 the percentage of English fiction taken out was reduced to 43½, so that the English readers read much more of standard literature than of novels. 32,159 vols. were issued for home use, and 3,746 consulted in the reference library. The issues of fiction are: French, 262; English, 8,385; German, 13,885; being a total of 22,532, *i.e.*, 63 per cent. of total issue. The author most asked for is William Black, whilst Miss Braddon with thirty-nine issues and Mrs. H. Wood with twenty-six, are classed as "poor reading;" Wallace's *Ben Hur* went out eighty-three times. Of German novelists Spielhagen is the most popular with an issue of 128. Shakespeare has been issued 164 times, Plutarch and Byron 10 times each. No balance sheet is furnished. Mr. Max Cohen is librarian.

New Books.

Some of the Old Manor Houses in the County of Norfolk. By the late E. Preston Willins, edited by Thos. Garratt. Folio. London: Farrold & Sons. (To be obtained (30s.) from Mr. Garratt, 112, Percy Road, Shepherd's Bush.)

England of all European countries is richest in the domestic architecture of the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and Norfolk of all her counties, perhaps excepting Kent, possesses most examples of ancient manor houses and halls. The varying characteristics of each locality, not only in building materials but also in history and situation, are reflected in the architecture of our counties, and the old Norfolk halls are distinctively expressive of the special facts of their county. The richly carved brickwork of their pinnacles, chimnies and doorways reflects not only the presence of good brick-earth and of wealthy squires and lords, but of a fine expanse of shore easily accessible to the rich merchant princes and skilful craftsmen and builders of Bruges and the sister cities of the Dutch Republic, who, forced to flee by the tyranny of Alva, carried with them into exile recollections of their own famous brickwork turrets and gables. Mr. Willins, therefore, had an interesting as well as a wide field, for Mr. Garratt says that but a tithe of the old houses of Norfolk are illustrated in this book. The work is intended to be a book of fifty architectural illustrations of beautiful and picturesque mansions. In this respect it sadly fails, for after making all allowances for the reproduction by lithography, the drawings are given to us in many cases in bad perspective and with evidences of hasty and defective drawing. There is a complete absence of artistic perception of the real beauty of the old work, and the necessary accessories of gardens, walks and trees are shown in the crudest way though they are such important factors in the charm exercised by an old English mansion. But though the book is disappointing in this respect it will prove a valuable guide to those in search of the picturesque and beautiful, and a carefully drawn map, giving the names of the principal halls and manor houses, with the distances from nearest towns, is an uncommon and most welcome addition to such a work.

The Prymer or Prayer Book of the Lay People in the Middle Ages, in English, dating about 1400 A.D. Edited with introduction and Notes from the MS. (G 24) in St. John's College, Cambridge, by Henry Littlehales. Part I. Text. Longmans, 1891. Royal 8vo, pp. ix., 119, and 1 facsimile.

In a recent number of *The Library*¹ we expressed a hope that at a day not far distant Mr. Littlehales would print *in extenso* a MS. Prymer, and now our wish has been gratified. The editor has done wisely in deferring publication of the second part, which will contain his introduction and notes. The comparison of the MS. now printed with other Prymers will no doubt yield valuable results which can only be obtained by patient study, and we may reasonably hope that the zeal which Mr. Littlehales has displayed in producing the text in so careful a manner will carry him through the more difficult part of his work. Without a personal knowledge of the MS. it is vain to criticise the method of reproduction. To represent in modern roman type the numerous contractions used by the

¹ Vol. II., p. 486.

medieval scribes is a difficult matter. The method adopted by Mr. Littlehales is to use an apostrophe when the original marks of contraction cannot be reproduced. He has employed a certain number of contractions, and we think it would have been possible to increase that number and thereby avoid pressing the apostrophe into service in so many cases. But the book is a decided gain to liturgical and philological students, and we wish the editor God-speed in his work.

Correspondence.

LORD CRAWFORD'S BALLAD CATALOGUE.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY.

DEAR SIR,—The writer of the article in the previous number has overlooked a point which may be of practical use to librarians. I refer to Lord Crawford's plan of mounting and keeping the broadside ballads. In his preface he explains that having felt the inconvenience of bound volumes which one could neither add to nor subtract from, he "rearranged the whole, on separate sheets, in the order of their first lines. Each ballad is mounted on stout paper of uniform size, with a simple black line drawn round the sides; any notes or remarks are written on the margins, and the whole are kept in cardboard boxes." I may state that oak boxes have been substituted for the more temporary cardboard boxes which, although convenient, were bound to be not sufficiently dust-proof.

Yours truly,
J. P. EDMOND.

'CHIEF' LIBRARIANS AND "EXCHANGES" AGAIN.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY.

SIR,—If any doubt existed as to the need for a common and clear understanding on this point it must surely have been dispelled by X. L.'s statement that "the designation Librarian will not be found at any institution where there is more than one person engaged," and an Ex-Assistant's more precise counter-statement that of some seventy reports examined, "nearly half use the title Librarian by itself." The highly amusing communication from the latter, however, is further instructive as showing what a wealth of nomenclature has been coined to express one simple fact; for after all is said, there is but one fact to be denoted, namely, that to one man has been assigned the duty of carrying on the work of a library in all its departments, and that for the better discharge of the same he has at his disposal the services of one or more assistants. But, says X. L., "all persons engaged in the administrative work of a library are 'Librarians.'" This may be true—in a sense; but it would be equally true if in regard to all the persons so engaged we agreed to designate one in an institution as the Librarian, and the others Assistant-Librarians. This is how our friends in the United States, with characteristic directness and simplicity, regard the matter, and it commends itself to good sense and good reason.

Much of the muddle that has hitherto prevailed is undoubtedly owing to the fact that we have only one word to express the mere fact of being engaged in library work, and the same word or its qualified forms to indicate the several degrees of status in that work. In this respect we are at a disadvantage as compared, say, with the members of the teaching profession. All of these—the highest as well as the lowest

in a school—are teachers, but graded. They rank as head-master, masters and under-masters—a truly logical series. If X. L. will strike out some equally happy and logical one for the members of a library staff, then all, from the highest to the most junior assistant, will be free to call himself a “librarian.”

“EXCHANGES.”

Of this less need be said, as less, apparently, is in dispute, the remedy for the complaint only requiring to be proclaimed in order to be generally adopted. To be sure “use and wont” will hold its own for a time, and some libraries continue as before to go through the cumbrous form of sending to each of the several hundred libraries with which it is *en rapport* a special acknowledgment for everything received; but in time the true meaning of the “give-and-take” principle will assert itself, and save much needless trouble and expense, while sparing the waste-paper basket.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. ROBERTSON.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

20, Hanover Square, W.

THIS Association was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the International Library Conference held under the presidency of Mr. John Winter Jones, Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its objects are (a) to encourage and aid by every means in its power the establishment of new libraries; (b) to endeavour to secure better legislation for public libraries; (c) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of libraries; and (d) to encourage bibliographical research.

The Association has, by invitation of the local authorities, held Annual Meetings in London (three times) Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, Glasgow and Reading. The next Annual Meeting (1891) will be held at Bristol, during the autumn.

An examination for Library Assistants has been instituted and certificates are issued to those who satisfy the examiners.

A large number of valuable papers have been published in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *The Library Chronicle*, and in *The Library*, its official organ, which is sent post-free every month to all members.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The annual subscription is one guinea, payable in advance, on the 1st January. The life subscription is fifteen guineas. *Library Assistants approved by the Council pay a subscription of half-a-guinea.*

The Hon. Secretaries will be glad to receive papers on appropriate subjects, for reading at the monthly and annual meetings.

Library Association Record.

The last meeting of the Association was held on Monday, January 12th at 8 p.m., in the Reading Room of the Clerkenwell Public Library, under the presidency of the Rev. John H. Rose, M.A., Chairman of the Library Commissioners. The following members were present:—Messrs. J. B. Bailey, George Bell, F. J. Burgoyne, R. H. Chapman, C. T. Davis, A. J. Dixie, W. E. Doubleday, H. W. Fincham, Edward Foskett, Joseph Gilbert, R. M. Holborn, L. Inkster, Hugh James, J. Y. W. Mac Alister, Thomas Mason, H. E. Poole, T. H. Rabbitt, Henry R. Tedder, J. Reed

Welch and J. D. Brown : also Messrs. Dawson (rector of St. John's Clerkenwell), Karslake (architect of the building), Morris (Library commissioner), Paget (assistant vestry clerk) and Riddle (sub-librarian). Mr. Mac Alister announced that the following gentlemen had joined the Association :—Sir Joseph D. Weston, M.P., Dorset House, Clifton; Mr. Stanley J. Killby, 138, Fleet St., E.C.; Mr. William Perkins, 56, Paternoster Row, E.C., and Mr. Austen, Free Public Library, Reading. He also announced that the committee had that evening nominated a Public Library Bill Committee. The chairman welcomed the Association to Clerkenwell and referred to the past connection of the parish with literature, and especially with regard to Dr. Samuel Johnson and the publication of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. Mr. J. D. Brown then read his paper on the "Working of the Clerkenwell Public Library," and a discussion followed, in which Messrs. Tedder, Mason, Davis, Gilbert, Holborn, Burgoyne, Foskett and Mac Alister took part. The remarks were chiefly directed to a criticism of the movable system of location, as used in the Clerkenwell Lending Library, and to the methods of issue and registration. Votes of thanks to the Chairman and Commissioners for their hospitality to the Association, and to Mr. Brown for his most interesting paper, brought the meeting to a close.

THE next monthly meeting will be held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, February 9th, at 8 p.m., when a paper on "The Selection of Geological and Biological Books for a Free Public Library," will be read by Mr. Ogle, Librarian of the Free Public Library, Bootle.

A meeting of the Council will be held at seven o'clock the same evening.

ANNUAL MEETING. Bristol, 1891.

The secretaries will be glad to receive early intimation of papers to be read at the Bristol Meeting, and the papers themselves must be sent in not later than July 1st. Practical papers will be especially welcome, and it is suggested that one or more short papers on the recently issued Report on Statistics would be valuable and would give rise to an interesting discussion. Papers received by the secretaries not later than the 1st June will be printed and proofs will be sent to all members likely to take part in discussing them. It is hoped that as many as possible will avail themselves of this offer, as the discussions are sure to be of greater practical value if those taking part in them are thoroughly conversant beforehand with the contents of the papers.

The Council have decided to attempt to carry out a new feature at the next Annual Meeting. They have requested several members of the Association to draw up reports on special departments of library work, with the view of raising useful discussions on the subjects treated. These reports will deal with whatever is new or interesting in their respective departments, with such comments as the reporters see fit to introduce, and will be printed and circulated before the meeting. As a beginning the following reports have been undertaken :—

Catalogues of the year : by Mr. C. W. Sutton, Public Libraries, Manchester. Library Reports : by Mr. C. Madeley, Museum, Warrington. New Library Appliances : by Mr. J. D. Brown, Clerkenwell Public Library. New Library Buildings : by Messrs. Burgoyne & Inkster Lambeth and Battersea Public Libraries.

Any one wishing to call attention to anything new or remarkable in connection with these subjects should write direct to the proper reporter.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Hanover Square, W.—Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publisher, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

Charles Kingsley.¹

EVERSLEY was the home of Charles Kingsley during the whole of his literary life. As poet, naturalist, philanthropist, social reformer, prophet, and preacher, he was for thirty-three years identified with the "delicious self-sown firs and moors" of the parish he loved so well. In Bramshill Park, the seat of Sir William Cope, the lord of this manor, still stands the tree where his ancestor, Archbishop Abbott, in the time of James I., accidentally shot the keeper. The Prelate saw the white splinters of his cross-bow sparkling from the tree; he saw the forester fall; his features collapsed into a look of rigid sorrow, and he never smiled again. That portrait haunted the childhood of Charles Kingsley. In this church of St. Mary the Virgin he entered on his first curacy, in July, 1842; here he was installed as rector in May, 1844; here early in that same year he brought his bride. Beneath those pine trees he composed most of the works which he wrote in the adjacent study. In that rectory-house he passed thirty-one years of intellectual vigour, moral worth, and domestic affection. From that pulpit were preached those *Village Sermons*, *Sermons on National Subjects*, and *Sermons for the Times*, which were listened to by villagers, and read wherever the English language is spoken. When, January 23rd, 1875, he died in that parsonage house, Westminster Abbey claimed the honour of his tomb, but through the triumph of a more tender sentiment he reposes in the spot he had selected, by the grave of Charlotte, wife of Anthony Froude, in the churchyard which his hand had planted with shrubs and edged with turf. His bust stands in the Baptistry of Westminster Abbey, by the side of his friend Frederick Maurice, his "dear master," in that new poets' corner where Keble, Wordsworth, George Herbert, and Cowper are likewise memorialized, and share with him the honour due to

¹ Read before the Library Association at Reading, September, 1890.

genius, allied with piety and virtue. But here close by us is his resting-place, beneath a white marble cross, engraved with his favourite passion flower. Circling round the cross are the words, "God is love;" beneath is the sentiment uttered to his wife when, a few weeks previous to his own death, he supposed her to be dying—"Amavimus, Amamus, Amabimus;" "We have loved, we do love, we shall love."

Charles Kingsley cannot be severed from the localities which pictured their beauties upon his genius. Though a man of literature, he was specially the child of nature.

And Nature, the old nurse, took
The child upon her knee,
Saying, "Here is a story-book
Thy Father has written for thee."
"Come wander with me," she said,
"Into regions yet untrod,
And read what is still unread
In the manuscripts of God;"
And he wandered away and away,
With Nature, the dear old nurse,
Who sang to him night and day
The rhymes of the universe.
And whenever the way seemed long,
Or his heart began to fail,
She would sing a more wonderful song,
Or tell a more wonderful tale.

Born at Holne Vicarage, near Dartmoor, June 12th, 1819; then in his early childhood in Nottinghamshire, where he became familiar with the fen country; then in Clovelly, where a new world of beauty was open to him, and became his inspiration from the age of eleven to his seventeenth year. The quaint village, the picturesque scenery, the fishermen, the wild, daring life, the tragic scenes he witnessed—all left upon his memory an indelible impression. We recognise Clovelly and his school days under Derwent Coleridge at Helston in the "Three Fishers"—

Three fishers went sailing away to the West,
Away to the West as the sun went down;
Each thought on the woman who loved him the best,
And the children stood watching them out of the town;
For men must work, and women must weep,
And there's little to earn, and many to keep,
Though the harbour bar be moaning.

Three wives sat up in the lighthouse tower,
And they trimmed the lamps as the sun went down;
They looked at the squall, and they looked at the shower,
And the night-rack came rolling up ragged and brown.

But men must work, and women must weep,
Though storms be sudden, and waters deep,
And the harbour bar be moaning.

Three corpses lay out on the shining sands
In the morning gleam as the tide went down,
And the women are weeping and wringing their hands
For those who will never come home to the town ;
For men must work, and women must weep,
And the sooner it's over, the sooner to sleep ;
And good-bye to the bar and its moaning.

In 1836 his father was removed from the Rectory of Clovelly to that of Chelsea, and Charles, after a year at King's College School, went to Magdalene College, Cambridge. In the summer of 1839 his father took brief charge of the village of Checkenden, in Oxfordshire, and with his family resided for two months in the little parsonage house ; there Charles, then an undergraduate at Cambridge, first met Fanny Grenfell, who became his wife in 1844. He graduated at Cambridge in 1842, taking a first class in classics and a senior optime in mathematics. In the same year he became curate (two years afterwards rector) of Eversley, the parish he held until his death in January, 1875. From 1859 to 1869 he was Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge. In 1869 he was preferred to a canonry in Chester Cathedral, and transferred in 1873 to a canonry in Westminster.

He took his rank as a poet and dramatist when, at the age of twenty-nine, he published the *Saints' Tragedy*, founded on the history and legend of Elizabeth of Hungary. This poem portrays sympathetically the character of the saint, and the peculiarities of mediæval life, whilst repudiating what he deemed to be superstitious and false in moral theory and miracle.

Hypatia presented an earlier epoch of ecclesiastical history. When Dean Stanley preached in Westminster Abbey, he singled out *Hypatia* for special praise, as a work "in which his moral enthusiasm scathed with an everlasting brand the name of the Alexandrian Cyril and his followers for their outrages on humanity and morality, in the name of a hollow Christianity and a spurious orthodoxy." "Read it," said the Dean, "if you would learn some of the most impressive lessons of ecclesiastical history. Read and inwardly digest those pages ; perhaps the most powerful he ever wrote, which close that wonderful story by discriminating the destinies which awaited each of its characters as they passed, one after another, 'each to his own place.'"

This work, however, obtained him many enemies. Charles Kingsley says:—"It was written with my heart's blood, and was received (as I expected) with curses from many of the very Churchmen whom I was trying to warn and save; yet I think the book did good. I know that it has not hurt me, save, perhaps, in that ecclesiastical career to which I have never aspired. I am trying to make the Church party (with whom are my deepest sympathies) understand that if they would conquer they must be themselves—what their formulæ, rightly understood, are already—the most liberal and wide-minded men in Christendom."

Of his Cambridge lectures, entitled, *The Roman and the Teuton*, Max Muller says:—"They produced a permanent impression on many a young mind. They contain the thoughts of a poet and a moralist, a politician, a theologian, and before all, of a friend and counsellor of young men, while reading for them and with them one of the most awful periods of the history of mankind—the agonies of a dying empire, and the birth of new nationalities." The Prince of Wales, who attended the course, made no secret of his indignation at the attacks which followed the publication of the lectures.

Prince Albert had specially committed his son, when at Cambridge, to Kingsley's tutorship in history. Hence arose a lasting relationship of kindly appreciation on the part of various members of the royal family, the Queen appointing him one of her chaplains.

Time does not permit notice of his efforts for sanitary reform, his charming books on natural science, his remarkable controversy with Cardinal Newman, his great historical novel, *Westward Ho!* and his descriptive novel *Two Years Ago*; but no notice of Charles Kingsley, however brief, can pass over *Alton Locke* and *Yeast*. In these brilliant works he boldly treated the great social problems which regard the industrious classes. He brought to bear on these questions a deep human sympathy, a wide-reaching, intellectual earnestness, and a nature at once vigorous and gentle. *Alton Locke, Tailor and Poet*, is to show the evils of competition and the grievances of the working classes. The remedy proposed is the adoption of the principle of co-operation, combining capital and labour. *Yeast, a Problem*, is devoted more particularly to the condition of the agricultural labourers. These remarkable works, coupled with his defence of Chartism, his advocacy of "Christian Socialism,"

and his letters, published with the signature of "Parson Lot," brought down upon him for many years a bitter and vehement persecution.

Opinions will vary as to the remedies he proposed, and as to the extent of the grievances described, but all must admit that a genuine philanthropy inspired all his utterances. He was a politician because he was a Christian. He said of himself with truth: "I strive to drink in from man and Nature the good and the beautiful; I desire to raise up the fallen, and to comfort the weary." From 1848 to 1856 he very specially thus devoted his thoughts and energies to the service of the people. But he was not a bitter controversialist, either in politics or theology. He never lost sight of the principle he uttered. "I hate party books. Men think wrongly when they suppose that in order to combat error they must not allow their opponents to have the least right on their side; no opinion in the world is utterly wrong."

He frequently alluded to his indebtedness to Theodore Parker, Emerson, and Carlyle; but the intensest enthusiasm of his soul went forth to God, to Nature as the garment of God, to Christ as the Incarnation of God. The dogma of an eternal hell of suffering he, like his friend, Frederick Maurice, rejected, as opposed to the supremacy of God's love and goodness. It was his passionate desire to alleviate the sorrows of others, to lead them onward to a noble life, and to inspire them with the love of God and the love of Christ.

When preaching before the Queen, in the chapel of Windsor Castle, he said:—"Some pretend that the age of chivalry is past, that the spirit of romance is dead. The age of chivalry is never past so long as there is a wrong left unredressed on earth, or a man or woman left to say, 'I will redress that wrong, or spend my life in the attempt.' The age of chivalry is never past so long as we have faith enough to say, 'God will help me to redress that wrong, or, if not me, He will help those that come after me, for His eternal will is to overcome evil with good.'"

Thus, in that peaceful parsonage, the poet priest lived his noble life. By the Berkshire chalk streams, or beneath the Hampshire fir trees, he watched the wisdom and beauty of Nature, reading her solemn lessons, and exulting over her "inimitable fun." It was truly a perfect home, bright, beautiful, solemn, yet exuberant with laughter.

His love went forth not only over men, women, and children, but to animals, in whose future life he believed. Three favourite

dogs are buried under the great fir trees on the rectory lawn. He sat up two whole nights with one of them, given to him by the Queen, and remained with it till it died. A family of toads lived on from year to year in a hole in the green bank, which the scythe was never allowed to approach. He had two little friends in a pair of sand wasps, who lived in a crack of the window in his dressing room. The little bird who built its nest every year under his bedroom window was a constant joy to him. His children learnt to fondle gently and lovingly all living things as beings from God. During his frequent visits to Wellington College he fostered such tastes amongst the boys.

In the close of the year 1874, his wife, stricken with illness supposed to be mortal, lay in one room, whilst he was gradually dying of pneumonia in another room. It was impossible for either to be moved. They wrote little pencil notes to one another. The weather was bitter, and he had been warned that his recovery depended on the same temperature being kept up in his room, and on his not leaving it; but one day he leapt out of bed, came into his wife's room for a few moments, and taking her hand in his he said, "This is Heaven; don't speak," but after a short silence a severe fit of coughing came on, he could say no more, and they never met again. On January 23rd he died. His wife survived him, and to her loving pen we are indebted for the precious memorial of his life. His friend and parishioner, Sir William Cope, preached in this church his funeral sermon, wherein he said:—"No doubt other men hold, and have held, these doctrines as strongly, and taught them as plainly, but he, by belonging to no party, and by his fairness and liberal charity to those who differed from him, had an influence on many men and many minds which others have not. Therefore he occupied a most important place in the Church of England, which, as far as I know, no other man fills, and which his death has left void."

And on the same day, in Westminster Abbey, Dean Stanley, after alluding to the many distinguished men who had been wont to gather around this humble rectory, and who now mourned the death of their friend and counsellor, went on to speak of other classes of mourners. "Witness the tears of the rough peasants of Hampshire, as they crowded round the open grave to look for the last time on the friend of three and thirty years, with whom were mingled the hunter in his red coat, the soldier from Sandhurst, and the wild gipsy wanderers, mourning for the face that they should no more see in forest or on heath."

Charles Kingsley was eminently the man of letters, the man of books; he had learnt from books all that made nature wonderful and beautiful to him; all that enabled him practically to serve others; and yet, when Matthew Arnold began to praise his great literary acquirements, he said:—"He had all that, but what seemed to me unique in him was his generosity of thought, ever forward to praise what was good, ever most willing to admire; the most incapable of being made ill-natured, or even indifferent, by having to support ill-natured attacks himself. Among men of letters I know nothing so rare as this."

When he wrote some verses to a young friend they ended with a stanza which seems to express what inspired his own life:

Be good, sweet maid, and let who will be clever;
Do noble things, not dream them all day long,
And so make life, death, and that vast for ever
One grand, sweet song.

R. R. SUFFIELD.



Rhyme and Reason in English Verse.

(Continued from page 46.)

PROMINENT among the minor phenomena of fresh poetic activity set astir by the French Revolution, was the attempt of Coleridge and Southey to revive classical metres as most consonant to Republican themes. Their Alcaics and Sapphics are only now remembered by the skilful parodies they provoked from the wits of the *Anti-Jacobin*, in the laughter occasioned by which they expired. That the Neo-Renaissance, of which this attempt was the caricature, did not lead its chief poetic representatives, Shelley, Byron, Keats and Landor, into similar extravagance, may have been due to the potent counter-influence of the Romantic reaction, to which they, in common with the leading poets of the Anti-Revolution, Scott, Wilson, and eventually Wordsworth, Coleridge and Southey, in turn succumbed. The play of these opposing forces resulted in imparting the utmost variety to the themes of their verse and the vehicles in which they were appropriately presented. The old ballad-measures were renewed by Coleridge, Wordsworth and Scott; the latter proceeding to employ them in the construction of romantic epic. Byron, Shelley and Keats revived the Spenserian stanza with new music; Frere, Byron and Keats the *ottava rima*; Wordsworth, Shelley and Keats the sonnet. Southey and Shelley adopted irregular forms of unrhymed metre. Leigh Hunt and Keats transformed heroic verse into an easy narrative measure, by allowing sentences to fall into their natural order, regardless of the broken cadences this might chance to involve. Blank verse, with more or less mastery of its peculiar difficulties, was employed by most of the poets named as the vehicle of didactic reflection, narrative, epic or tragedy. To enumerate the lyrical variations which they, in company with the contemporary song-writers, Moore and Procter, successfully essayed, would prolong this survey too far. Yet, save in the single instance of the pseudo-classical

revival, this profuse diversity was obtained without any breach of the fundamental laws of English versification.

The variety thus introduced has been maintained down to our own day, and no legitimate metrical form which the revivalists brought into use has been relinquished. New and equally permissible forms have been added to our stock, and those already adopted subjected to completer control. Lord Tennyson, besides employing a long-forgotten variation of the eight-syllabled quatrain, and wedding it to immortal words, has brought blank verse to its extreme perfection, and drawn out from every lyrical measure which he has touched a richer music than it had yielded before. Matthew Arnold achieved a success only second to his, in the management of irregular rhythms and unrhymed verse. Robert Browning, though often disdaining the music which was unquestionably within his compass, and choosing to rival Butler in the grotesque ingenuity of his rhymes and Donne in the nervous ruggedness of his rhythms; and Mrs. Browning, despite her eccentric views upon the subject of consonances, proved themselves masterful and versatile lyrists within lawful bounds. Dante Rossetti, besides reviving a long disused ballad-measure, gave to the sonnet its finishing touch of delicate accuracy. Mr. William Morris has not only resuscitated Chaucer's favourite seven-lined stanza, but given renewed elasticity to heroic verse as a medium for narrative, by separating couplets as well as breaking cadences. Lastly, Mr. Swinburne has shewn a special command of dactylic and anapæstic metres and rare skill in handling the ode and choric chaunt.

This retrospect of the history of our versification warrants the conclusion, that of the various modifications it has undergone, those only have proved lasting which have been in harmony with the composite structure and gradual development of the language. The failure of the attempts to conform Latin metres to English words may be clearly traced to an oversight of the antagonism between the quantitative system of the one language and the accentual usage of the other; an antagonism which the genius of Sidney and Spenser, and the enthusiasm of Southey and Coleridge were powerless to reconcile. The opposition from time to time raised to the moderate employment of rhyme failed in like manner, in spite of the support lent by Ben Jonson and Milton, because the popular ear justly resented the deprivation of a pleasure to which (owing to the partial affinity of our language with the Romance family), it had imme-

morally grown accustomed. The decided failure of these innovations and the scant favour shewn to all modifications of accepted forms not clearly demonstrable as improvements, furnish welcome evidence that the "crowning common sense" which has "saved us many times" from political shipwreck, has not deserted us in literature.

Finality in an art is tantamount to stagnation, and there is no reason to doubt that a poetic growth so healthy as ours has been must indefinitely increase. Ample as its existing stock of metrical forms has yet proved for all reasonable requirements, it may need to be enlarged hereafter. The conclusion just reached, however, entails the corollary that such additions and alterations as may be needed must harmonize with the conditions already laid down in order to be permanently successful. Some, perhaps, who will not dispute this in theory may have taken part in a recent literary movement which practically impugns it. During the last few years, symptoms of revolt against the accepted rules of English versification, and tentative efforts to enlarge the number of available forms, have proceeded from a prominent poetic circle. This movement has doubtless been dictated by a praiseworthy desire to increase the pleasure which it is the chief end of art to confer, more particularly the attraction which the recurrence of rhyme affords to the cultivated ear. Dante Rossetti, Mr. William Morris and Mr. Swinburne took the first step, by reverting to the obsolete practice of dislocating terminal accent for the sake of rhyme, which prevailed before the reform introduced by Surrey. Thus, *e.g.*, they made "water" rhyme with "her," and "bunches" with "these," by shifting the accent from the penultimate to the last syllable. The employment of common verbal derivatives as rhymes, which was in use at the same period of unreformed versification and still prevails in French, has likewise been adopted as an expedient for swelling the meagre resources of our rhyming vocabulary. The final step in the same direction has been the introduction by Mr. Payne, Mr. Dobson and others, of a number of old French verse-forms, the essential principle of whose construction is the prolonged repetition of two or three interwoven rhymes. I do not intend to discuss the technical peculiarities of these forms, but wish to point out certain difficulties in the way of their naturalization which do not seem to have been adequately considered by their sponsors.

Passing over the abstract objection that occurs *in limine* to

any reversion to archaic usage and neglect of an accomplished reform, as adverse to the spirit of literary progress, I may dwell on the practical difficulty that English, by reason of its essentially Teutonic structure, lacks the chief facilities for recurrent rhyming which the French verse-forms imperatively demand. Mr. Marsh affirms it to be "rich in variety of terminations, and for that reason poor in consonances. The number of English words which have no rhyme in the language, and which, of course, cannot be placed at the end of a line, is very great. . . . Our poverty of rhyme is perhaps the greatest formal difficulty in English poetical composition. . . . If we compare our own with some of the Romance Languages, we shall find a surprising difference in the relative abundance and scarcity of rhymes."² The inferiority of English to French in respect of rhyming facilities does not stop here. Our neighbours possess a far larger abundance of words with vowel-endings and a prosodical system of accentuation, which, by incidence on the last syllable and the penultimate respectively, creates a distinction between masculine and feminine rhymes. They are moreover, as has been said, permitted by immemorial tradition and the usage of their classical writers, to find rhymes among derivatives from a common root. None of these advantages being permissibly within the reach of an English poet, it seems as unreasonable to expect that he should succeed in naturalizing French verse-forms, as it was for the Israelites in Egypt to make bricks without straw.

What is likely to be the result of forcing upon a language naturally poor in consonances and deficient in expedients for increasing them, forms of verse to which ease and abundance of rhyme are essential? The language must suffer strain unless the form be violated. The strain may affect either the sense of the words or their accentuation. The poet will be driven by the inexorable conditions of his task to endless shifts and ingenious devices; now having to obtain rhymes by inverting the natural order of his sentences, now by "wresting words from their true calling;" here by adopting an archaism, there a neologism or a provincialism. At other times he will be compelled to torture accents, either by altering their usual syllabic incidence, or by prolonging sounds that are ordinarily slurred and dividing those that are blended. This is not mere criticism *à priori*, but sums up the impression produced by the chief attempts to naturalize

² *Lectures, ut supra*, pp. 358-359

French verse-forms which have come in my way. Chapter and verse may be given in a few notable cases. So acknowledged a master of versification and assonance as Mr. Swinburne has been forced by the structural difficulty of translating Villon's *balades* in their original shape, to the following acts of license and discord. Besides transferring the accent of "pity" and "Breton" to the last syllable, he has prolonged the slurred ending of "vermilion" and "question" into a dissyllable. Not only has he unearthed such archaisms as "perdie," "perfay," "adrad," and "reprobance" in his stress of need for consonances, but he has been reduced to rhyme "renown" with "upon," and substitute the barbarous form "Papalist" for Papacy, so that it may chime a little better with "Calixt"! The injury done by this word-juggling to the masculine force of his renderings is deplorable.

A collection of modern lyrics which devotes a special section to the imported forms, contains contributions by poets less eminent than Mr. Swinburne, but possessing kindred dexterity in the art and mechanism of versification.² It is unnecessary to refer to them by name, since their individual merits are not in question, and it is only requisite to shew that their undeniable power and skill have been baffled by the insurmountable difficulties of the task they have set themselves. As an example of the distortion which the bondage of recurrent rhyme can put upon thought and fancy, I select a *rondeau*, wherein one of the deftest of the company has mixed diverse metaphors and confounded associations of Greece, Judæa, and England, after the grotesque fashion in which Mr. Sambourne creates those hybrids of man and beast that often stir us to laughter in the pages of *Punch*. After glancing retrospectively at the days when

"With pipe and flute the rustic Pan,
Made mellow music meet for man,"

he proceeds to lament the insensibility of this age to poetic music, and longs that "some air of Arcady could *fan*" it. So uneducated or perverted, however, is our taste, he declares, that the very minstrel-god, Apollo, might pass through our midst "from Beersheba to *Dan*" only to find himself unheard, or "the *night-jar's* note preferred!"

The strain upon sense which a Procrustean form can impose

¹ *Poems and Ballads*, Second Series; *passim*.

² *Latter-day Lyrics*, selected and arranged by W. D. Adams.

may be illustrated by two *villanelles*, the work of different writers, in the same collection. In the extremity of their despair for rhymes in *inging*, one poet observes "wintry webs of mist" to be "*springing* on high out of the muffled earth," and snow-flakes to be "*clinging*" to the air through which they fall; feats of agility which mists and snow-flakes have never yet been known to perform in the course of Nature. The other poet hears "the cuckoo's wood-chime *swinging*" as if it were a church-bell, and a lady's voice "*stringing*" golden beads on a thread, a comparison scarcely flattering, unless she were practising her scales. Another lyricist of the brotherhood having been so rash as to attempt a *rondeau redoublé* with "rose" and "grove" for initial endings, defies good sense and good English by making "sunbeams *doze*," and a dove "coo the day's delightful *close*," besides condensing within twelve lines nearly all the discordant consonances in *ove* to be found in the language, to the utter ruin of the music which is presumably the final cause of the form.

In most of these instances the thought has been obviously suggested by, instead of suggesting, the rhyme. Sidney, in one of his sonnets, ridicules the alliteration affected by the poetasters of his time in language not less applicable to this recent fashion:—

"You that do dictionaries' method bring
 Into your rimes, running in rattling rows . . .
 You take wrong waies ; these far-fet helps be such
 As do bewray a want of inward touch."

It would be wronging the writers of these forms to infer that they compose with the aid of a rhyming dictionary, but it is certain that the ideas which they intend to convey must be modified by the number of rhymes at disposal. Their native poverty, however, betrays them. "When you see *frivolity* at the end of a line, you do not need your eyes to tell you that *jollity* cannot be far off; *mountains* and *fountains* are as indissolubly united in rhyme as they are in physical geography, and if a poet qualifies an object as *frigid*, he never fails to inform you in the next line that it is also *rigid*."¹

Even when the writer's art avails to hide the shifts he has resorted to in order to preserve the form, we cannot avoid seeing that his absorption in that task hinders him from giving much attention to the spirit. Taken at its best, as in Mr. Swinburne's

¹ *Marsh's Lectures, ut supra*, p. 368.

Century of Rondels, this rhymed mosaic-work is entitled to no more than the merit of fanciful ingenuity, and its laboured mechanism serves to hamper rather than help the thought and feeling it should express. The English poems hitherto composed in these alien measures are, with scarcely an exception, of the thinnest possible texture. It has been urged by a skilful advocate that *vers de société*, to which class they for the most part belong, are essentially "*nugæ*," and sufficiently answer their purpose if they are "at least '*canoræ*.'"¹ But there is an awkward collocation in the text of Horace which the advocate seems to have forgotten:—" *Versus inopes rerum*." "To write prose," says Goethe, "one must have something to say; but he who has nothing to say can still make verses and rhymes, where one word suggests another, and at last something comes out which, in fact, is nothing, but looks as if it were something."² The poets who try to bring the verse-forms of recurrent rhyme into fashion, have often something to say worth hearing when not thus hampered, but lose all chance of saying it effectively by the monotony and iteration which compliance with the conditions involves. This monotony is far less obtrusive in the language to which these forms are native, by reason of its greater flexibility. The recurrence which in an English *triolet* or *villanelle* becomes so wearisome and teasing to the ear, is avoided in French by the ease with which a perfect consonance can be found that does not depend upon syllabic identity. "*Ce cou-la*" and "*s'écoula*"; "*vôtre beauté*" and "*votré beau thé*," are examples in point from the *triolet*s of Théodore de Banville. The half tender, half humorous moods of sentiment to which this measure most readily lends itself, freely admit of such a play of words, but there would be great difficulty in imitating it in English without the most extravagant punning. Even in French, however, the repetition of the same line six times out of fourteen, as in the *rondel*, and of two rhymes prolonged over twenty-four lines, as in the *rondeau redoublé*, is so tiresome to some English ears as to neutralize the pleasure conferred by the grace of the thought or the tenderness of the sentiment. The chief gratification that remains is in admiring how ingeniously the poet has overcome difficulties and contrived to fit the pieces of his puzzle into their order. In the case of an English writer,

¹ *Latter-day Lyrics*; Note by Austin Dobson.

² *Conversations with Eckermann*; Tr. Oxenford, p. 211.

these difficulties are increased tenfold, and admiration is qualified by the painful evidences of the struggle. Admitting, as it would be uncandid to deny, that they may now and then be conquered without doing violence to sense, language, or accent, the mechanical exercise of laborious ingenuity demanded of the artist must be fatal to the spontaneity and naturalness which are the life and soul of lyrical poetry. The dictum of Goethe, that the measure in which a true poem is composed "flows as it were unconsciously from the mood of the poet; if he thought about it while writing the poem he would go mad and produce nothing of value,"¹ is confirmed by the testimony of all literary history.

To poets blinded by the idolatry of artistic form, the example of Provençal literature, wherein the versification of recurrent rhyme originated, is specially instructive. Availing themselves of the singular advantages of their tongue, the poets of Provence attained a mastery of metre and rhyme which, by common consent, none of any other nation have been able to approach. Harmonious as was the union of sense and sound in their *sextines*, *retrouanges*, and *redondes*, and technically beautiful as those elaborate metrical devices were in structure, the absorption which attention to their mechanism involved, eventually withered the principle of poetic life. "By imposing upon themselves," says Sismondi, "rules which were both ridiculous and difficult to obey, with regard to the return of the same rhyme or of the same words at the termination of the verse, the Troubadours contracted a puerile habit of playing with words to which they too often sacrificed both the idea and the sentiment. . . . An extreme monotony reigns throughout all their works. . . . Rising in the eleventh century . . . at the middle of the thirteenth century their poetry had made no perceptible progress. . . . We find the same gallantry expressed in hyperbolical terms, the same tenderness proceeding from the ingenious conceits of the brain rather than from the real feeling of the heart. . . . We find *sextines*, *retrouanges*, and *redondes*, in which sense gives place to rhyme, without a single fine poetical conception."² The latest historian of the Troubadours, Dr. Hueffer, while doing full justice to their refinement and ingenuity, repeats the same accusations of "laboured dryness," "narrow

¹ *Eckermann's Conversations*, *ut supra*, p. 389.

² *Literature of the South of Europe*, chapters 4 and 5, *passim*.

range of thought," and "excess of artificiality;" laments that "much freshness of expression and much genuine fervour of inspiration" were "sacrificed to the Moloch of form," and attributes their literary decline to an over-reliance "on the formal side of their art."¹ The fate of the later writers of the Italian Renaissance points the same moral. Subordinating every ambition to that of copying the verisimilitude of their classical models, they produced nothing that bore the impress of healthy vigour. Grace of style and smoothness of versification, such as they undoubtedly possessed, may long survive the decay of poetic fibre, and the polish of the *Sette-centisti* was mistaken by their contemporaries for power, but the thin veneer yielded to the action of time and laid bare the imposture. *Absit omen!*

HENRY G. HEWLETT.



¹ *The Troubadours*, pp. 76, 100, 144, 311, 338.

Book Plates.

(Continued from page 53.)

WE mentioned Lady Oxford's book plate immediately after that which John Pine designed for Cambridge University, because both are allegorical. Strictly in order of date, the next well-known engraver of English book plates, after Pine, is Michael Vandergucht; who, in 1716, signs the book plate of Sir William Fleming, Baronet, of Rydal: the shield is without any kind of frame, and heavy-rolled mantling descends to its base. It is a fine specimen of the purely heraldic style. Vandergucht worked for some years in England, dying in Bloomsbury in 1725. It will be remembered that George Vertue was his most distinguished scholar.

Simon Gribelin was another well-known artist who engraved English book plates. He was a Frenchman, born at Blois in 1661; he settled in England before he was twenty-one, and died at a house in Long Acre in 1733. His principal work in book plates was engraving two for use by parochial libraries; each was designed in blank, so far as the inscription is concerned, and both seem to have been pretty freely used by the institutions for which they were intended. They are neither, of course, armorial; both represent scriptural scenes. Amongst Gribelin's other book plates is a finely engraved one for Sir Philip Sydenham.

Another interesting engraver of book plates is Kane O'Hara, the dramatist, who, when quite a young man, produced a "premium" plate for Trinity College, Dublin. William Hogarth's name can also be added to the list of English book plate engravers. About 1720, at the outset of his career, he produced a book plate for John Holland, a "herald painter," and another for George Lambert, the scenic artist; in both of these allegory plays a somewhat conspicuous part. Several other minor works of Hogarth are often spoken of as book plates, but they are in reality either trade cards, tickets, or impressions from plates designed for other purposes.

So far as we know at present only two book plates were engraved by that eminent artist, Sir Robert Strange. Like Hogarth he seems to have turned his attention to this class of work early in his career. Both these plates are purely pictorial, and both date about the middle of the last century. One of them, Strange—himself an active partisan of the Young Pretender—engraved for his brother-in-law, Andrew Lumisden, who acted as private secretary to the Stuart Princes; the other, designed by Wale, was for Dr. Thomas Drummond.

We are now fast coming to the end of our list of English book plate engravers, or, perhaps, to be more accurate, we should say "engravers of English book plates." Two more names remain to be mentioned, and though they may come "last" they are certainly not "least" in merit—Francis Bartolozzi and Thomas Bewick. As we might expect, Bartolozzi's book plates are all designed in the allegoric style. That engraved—probably from a design by Cipriani—for Sir Robert Cunliffe is a very charming production. The family arms rest upon a bank of clouds, and into the scene are introduced the inhabitants of celestial climes. As "engraver to his Majesty," Bartolozzi both designed and engraved a book plate for George III., in which three flying cherubs hold aloft the Royal arms as borne before the Union. But perhaps the most delightful of Bartolozzi's book plates is that which, in 1796, he engraved for Henrietta, Countess of Bessborough. Mr. Leicester Warren's description of this plate is so terse and accurate that we cannot do better than quote his words:—"A Roman interior: Venus seated on a chair of classical ornamentation. Behind her a vase of flowers. She is holding in each hand a burning human heart. Two Cupids, one floating in the air, the other just soaring from the pavement, wave above her a long scarf inscribed *H. F. Bessborough.*"

Beautiful as are these book plates by Bartolozzi, it cannot for a moment be said that his capabilities as a designer or as an engraver are seen to full advantage in his book plates; work which could be executed on a larger scale showed forth his talents far more. But with Thomas Bewick—the name just now mentioned with Bartolozzi's—it was quite otherwise. The smaller the size of the plate he had to engrave, the greater seemed to be his faculty for introducing into it originality and beauty of design. His earliest book plate bears date 1797; the landscape style in such works was then at its height, and

nearly a hundred Bewick book plates are known to us. These mostly belonged to Northern book-lovers; but Walpole, Southey, and some others, not local people, availed themselves of Bewick's art and fancy in book plate engraving. In these plates, heraldry plays but a very unimportant part, or is conspicuous by its absence. Generally, the owner's name figures on a block of stone, thrown carelessly to the foreground in some charming bit of Tyneside scenery, now wiped out of existence.

So much for some of the more important engravers of English book plates. A word now about the feature in the study of these plates which, to a great many persons, will have the chief interest—the consideration of those which have been used by men whose names are now remembered as famous: here, too, not to be tedious, we will exclude foreign celebrities and deal with the English ones as nearly as possible in order of date.

First comes Sam Pepys. Under the date 21st July, 1668, he writes in his Diary: "Went to my plate-maker's, and there spent an hour about contriving my little plates for my books at the King's Tanyards." This "little plate" is probably one which shows us the initials "S.P." with two anchors and ropes entwined, and his motto, *Mens cujusque is est quisque*. The design is pretty and appropriate; but Sam, as he got on in the world, probably wanted something more pretentious, something which would show the world that he had a coat of arms; and so about 1679, he had done for him a book plate giving an engraving of the Pepys' coat, quartering Talbot of Cottenham, with the inscription below:—"Samuel Pepys, of Brampton in Huntingdonshire, Esq., Secretary of the Admiralty to His Mat' King Charles the Second; Descended of ye antient family of Pepys of Cottenham in Cambridgeshire." He retained his Secretaryship under James II., and held it till that monarch's abdication; this fact he records on a third book plate on which is his portrait, engraved by Robert White. As a book plate, this is the most interesting of the three, since it forms one of the very few examples of portrait plates. Very likely, this plate is sometimes included by portrait collectors in their collections without its real use being known.

Bishop Burnet used a book plate on which he describes himself as "Lord Bishop of Salisbury, Chancellor of the most noble Order of the Garter," so that it must have been en-

graved after 1689. It shows us the arms of the See of Salisbury impaling those of Burnet, encircled by the Garter crowned by an episcopal mitre and backed by a crosier and key in *saltire*. The honest and impetuous old Whig must have possessed a large and varied library. One often meets with his book plate fastened behind the title page of works on a great variety of subjects.

About the same date is the book plate of Queen Anne's great minister, great statesman, and underminer of the Whigs, Robert Harley, the founder of the collection of books and MSS. which perpetuate his name. Harley's plate is inscribed:—"Robert Harley of Brampton Castle, in the county of Hereford, Esq.:" it is found in two sizes, one for folio volumes, and another for smaller ones.

On his book plate, Quaker William Penn styles himself "Esquire," and "Proprietor of Pensylvania." It bears date in 1703, so that it was designed and executed for him on his return to England after his last visit to Pennsylvania; no doubt, on settling down at home he began to think of getting his library into some order, and was in fashion by having a book plate engraved for him. The plate is designed in the style of the period, which has been before described; the heraldic part of it shows no indication of the arms of Hannah Callowhill, whom he had married in 1695. His son's book plate, designed soon after 1718, is very similar; on it the owner describes himself as "of Stoke Pogeis, in the county of Bucks, first proprietor of Pensilvania," "first" here evidently means "chief."

Matthew Prior's book plate belongs probably to about this same date, though it is more in the "Jacobean" style, and has a good bit of allegory about it. There is nothing in the inscription on this plate—which is simply "Matthew Prior, Esq."—to show to what particular period of the "thin, hallow-looked" man's life it belongs, but it may probably be placed at the close of his career as a diplomatist, when he was settling down on the small country property Harley had bought for him. Matt's is a scarce plate.

We have to turn over a good many pages of history and chronological biography before we come to another character who used a mark of ownership for his books. This is the ill-fated Lord Lovat, who lost his head on Tower Hill, after the second Scotch rebellion. "The Right Honourable Simon Lord Fraser of Lovat, Chief of the Ancient Clan of the Frasers, Governour of Inverness, &c.," as he styles himself on his book plate. "*Chief*

of the ancient clan of the Frasers ! " He silences any gossips who would whisper stories about an elder brother Alexander, who had killed a piper, and was hiding in Wales ! It is a fine, bold plate, no doubt the work of some Edinburgh engraver, who has surrounded the shield and supporters with a heavy ermine-lined mantle of estate, falling from the back of the helmet.

John Wilkes was hardly the sort of man one would expect to find anxious to display his armorial bearings, yet he had three book plates, all armorial, engraved for him at different periods of his life. The first about the year 1755, when he was but twenty-seven, and had not made himself conspicuous ; the second some few years later, when his name was in everyone's mouth ; and the third—on which he reminds us he is an " F.R.S." —towards the close of his life, when folks were beginning to forget him as the demagogue, and think of him as the upholder of law and order in the City. The two first plates are " Chippendale " in their style, and the third " Wreath and Ribbon."

In the summer of 1761 Laurence Sterne told a correspondent that he had bought seven hundred books " dog cheap, and many good." These he was then busy arranging in the " best room " at Coxwold. No doubt to put in these books, he had a book plate engraved, and it is very probable that he was the designer of it, for the illustrations in a volume of Woodhall's poems, reveal the fact that Sterne did something in the way of designing. The book plate shows us the bust of a young man—Mr. Warren conjectures that it is that of either Juvenal or Martial—placed on a slab, on either side of which lie closed volumes ; one inscribed, " Alas ! poor Yorick," the other, " Tristram Shandy." On the slab is written, " Laurence Sterne."

A much commoner book plate than Sterne's is that of David Garrick. One often sees it in some choice Shakesperian volume, giving an additional charm and value to that volume by marking it as having been in Davy's library, and sometimes—though not so often—in a valueless volume that Garrick, perhaps, allowed to rest on his book shelves, just because he did not take the trouble to turn it out ; in that case it gives the volume an additional charm and value to its vendor, who pulls it out of the " fourpenny box," and gives it a place in his shop window. The book plate bears the inscription, " David Garrick," in a " Chippendale " frame, crowned with Shakespeare's bust, and below it, a group of theatrical " properties." This very appropriate quotation finds place on the plate :—" *Le premiere chose qu'on doit faire*

quand on a emprunté un Livre c'est de le lire afin de pouvoir le rendre plutôt."

So far as we know, Horace Walpole used three book plates. The earliest is armorial, and was engraved for him, probably, as a young man: its inscription reads simply "Mr. Horatio Walpole." The style is earlier than its date. His second book plate was engraved after 1791, when accession to an earldom rendered him no longer "Mr. Walpole." This represents a mediæval seal bearing the Walpole arms, with the inscription "*Sigillum Horatii Comitiss de Orford.*" His last, by far the most delicate and beautiful, was engraved soon afterwards by Bewick; it shows us Walpole's house and park at Strawberry Hill. A withered tree on the right of the design bends over it, and from the branches hangs a shield bearing the Walpole arms. Other shrubs and trees figure in the scene, and the whole is delightful from its execution as well as its associations.

The mention of one more example must conclude this somewhat disjointed account of book plates which have been used by Englishmen of fame: it is that of the Suffolk tailor's son, Robert Bloomfield, and a very curious plate it is. A farmer on cow-back does duty as a crest, two ploughmen act as supporters, whilst the bearings on the shield represent every variety of agricultural implement, every tenant of a farmyard ordinarily met with, and the farmer's boy himself, in an attitude suggestive of his having done full justice to the fare provided at a harvest home. The quarterings include three open volumes, and across the pages of one is printed "Farmer's Boy," the title of the owner's only really successful literary effort. The whole—even to its motto, "A Fig for the Heralds"—is throughout characteristic of Bloomfield; it was engraved for him in 1815 by a Cheapside engraver of no particular note.

The limit of space allotted for this paper has now been reached, so these remarks on book plates must be brought to a close. What we have said about them—and a good deal more, for that matter—is already pretty well known to the majority of students of the subject. For such persons, however, the paper was not intended, but for the curators or possessors of libraries who have hitherto not given the matter any particular attention, in the hope that by hinting at some points of interest in book plates, these marks of ownership may receive the attention they deserve, and that our stock of information about them may thus be materially increased.

W. J. HARDY.

The Changes in the Permanent Exhibitions of Books and Manuscripts at the British Museum.

Part I.—MANUSCRIPTS.

THE changes which have of late been made in the selection of rare books and manuscripts exhibited to the general public in the Grenville Room and King's Library at the British Museum are so unusually extensive that we think a brief description will probably be found interesting by many of our readers. Until now the only exhibits in the Grenville Room were two cases of block books, separated from the rest of the printed books in the King's Library by the manuscripts in the Saloon which forms the angle uniting the two rooms. The block books are now joined to the other exhibits of the Department of Printed Books, and the Grenville Library is occupied by seven cases, containing a most attractive and interesting display of illuminated manuscripts, while an eighth shows specimens of rare and beautiful bindings. Some of the illuminated MSS. have been exhibited before in cases placed temporarily at the beginning of the King's Library, but at least a half must be quite new to visitors to the Museum. Among these are nine splendid Greek MSS., mostly of the four Gospels, ranging in date from the tenth to the end of the eighteenth centuries, and illuminated with miniatures of the evangelists and saints, and elaborately-designed head-pieces. Most of the Anglo-Saxon MSS., which occupy the other side of the same case, have been seen before, but there are few more interesting things in the Museum than the Latin Psalter, with interlinear glosses in Anglo-Saxon, and miniatures, initials and borders in colours, the work of an English artist of the eleventh century. The English MSS. are continued in Case II., where is now shown for the first time a vellum roll of the twelfth century illustrating the life of St. Guthlac of Croyland, in a series of eighteen beautiful outline drawings in ink, slightly tinted, and enclosed within circular plaques. In Case III. are some fine manuscripts of the

Apocalypse, two illustrated by English artists, and a third, which certainly carries off the palm, by a Frenchman. In Case IV., a MS. of the Epistle of Philippe de Mezières for peace and friendship between Charles VI. of France and Richard II. of England, contains an interesting portrait of the latter king. The remaining three cases contain MSS. of the fifteenth century, when the art of the illuminator had reached its highest development. Most of the MSS. here exhibited are liturgical, Books of Hours preponderating, and the beauty of the workmanship in almost every instance makes selection for special mention an impossibility. Some large manuscripts exhibited in the lower part of four of the cases enhance the richness of the general effect, and especially in the evening, when the colours of the illuminations are lit up by the electric light, no art gallery in London can offer a more brilliant exhibition. Along with the illuminations are thirty-six specimens of rare bindings, with which the Department of Manuscripts now, for the first time, prepares the way for, and supplements the larger collection belonging to the Department of Printed Books in the King's Library. About twenty of these, as enclosing manuscripts written before the invention of printing, are of especial interest. They include several examples of bindings in metal and ivory, perhaps the most noticeable being the covers of a West German MS. of the four Gospels in Latin, written probably in the ninth century. These consist of wooden boards covered with silver plates of the fourteenth century; in a sunk panel on the upper cover is a seated figure of Christ in high relief; the borders have a scroll and flower pattern repoussé and, as well as the panel, are set with gems, renewed in 1838. Attached to the two outer corners are the symbols of SS. Luke and John, set in translucent enamel of deep blue, the nimbi green. Not less interesting than this are two specimens of English blind-tooled bindings of the thirteenth century. The stamps include a bishop in pontificals, a lion, a mounted warrior with lance, griffins, dragons, &c. Other examples of blind-tooling are shown in two fourteenth-century bindings from the Netherlands, and for the fifteenth century we have the work of German, French and Italian artists. But the fame of the English stamped bindings was so great in the Middle Ages that, if the Department of MSS. has other good specimens among its treasures, the number exhibited might be increased with advantage. One German leather binding of the fifteenth century is interesting for

its long hanging strip which would enable it to be attached to the girdle; another, for its fragment of an iron chain. Among the later books two Italian bindings (Nos. 21 and 23), one blind-tooled, the other gilt, are especially noticeable for dignity and beauty; while a sixteenth-century French binding in olive leather, tooled with small ovals, each containing some device—a bee, a sun, an acorn, &c.—is also very fine.

Passing from the Grenville Library to the Manuscript Saloon we find the most notable additions among the autographs. Some of these have probably been brought into notice in the preparations for the Tudor and Stuart Exhibitions, which have been held at the Museum, simultaneously with those at the New Gallery. Among these, we think, may be reckoned the letters, placed in cruel juxtaposition, in which Lady Jane Grey speaks of the “fayned and untrew clayme of the Lady Marye, bastard daughter to our great uncle, Henry th’ eight,” while Queen Mary denounces “the ladie Jane” as “a quene of a new and prettie inuencion.” So too, the sketch by Burghley, of the arrangements of the hall of Fotheringhay Castle for the trial of Mary Queen of Scots, and the account sent to him of her execution, appear now for the first time in the permanent exhibition, though they were shown two years ago among other Stuart relics. Another new exhibit is that most stirring resolution of the Council of War of the English commanders, which we may surely quote in full:—

“1 Auguste, 1588. We whose names are herevnder written haue determynd and agreeede in counsaile to folowe and pursue the Spanishe ffeete vntill we haue cleared oure owne coaste and broughte the ffrithe weste of vs, and then to retorne back againe, as well to revictuall oure ships (which stand in extreme scarsitie) as alsoe to guard and defend oure owne coaste at home: with further protestatione that, if oure wantes of victualles and munitione were suppliede, we wold pursue them to the furthest that they durste haue gone.” Signed by C[harles Howard, Lord] Howard [of Effingham, Lord High Admiral], George [Clifford, Earl of] Cumberland, [Lord] T[homas] Howard, Edmund [Sheffield, Lord] Sheffield, [Sir] Francis Drake, [Sir] Edward Hoby, [Sir] John Hawkins, and [Capt.] Thomas Fenner. [*Add. MS.* 33,740, f. 6.]

Two letters—one by Carlyle, the other by Robert Browning—must close our notice of the autographs. Carlyle’s is dated Craigenputtock, 20th November, 1832, and after some praise

of J. S. Mill, as "one of the best, clearest-headed, and clearest-hearted young men now living in London," contains this sad grumble at the means by which the most transcendental of writers must nowadays earn their bread and butter or starve. "As for myself, I am doing little. The literary element is one of the most confused to live in, at all times; the Bibliopolic condition of this time renders it a perfect chaos. One must write 'Articles': write and curse (as Ancient Pistol ate his leek); what can one do?"

Browning's letter, written in 1868, to Mr. W. G. Kingsland, has been quoted in print before now, but its interest is great, and all lovers of English literature must be grateful to Mr. P. Jenner Weir, for having added it, by his generous gift, to the permanent possessions of the nation. "I can have little doubt," the poet says, "that my writing has been, in the main, too hard for many I should have been pleased to communicate with; but I never designedly tried to puzzle people, as some of my critics have supposed. On the other hand, I never pretended to offer a substitute for a cigar or a game at dominoes to an idle man."

Within a few feet of this letter, written by the great man who died only a year ago, is shown a fragment of the Aristotle papyrus, written when Vespasian, or one of his immediate successors, was Emperor of Rome. In the same room are MSS. representatives of all the chief treasures of old English literature. The unique Beowulf, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Piers Plowman, Wyclif's Bible, Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, and poor Occleve's dull *De Regimine Principum*, of which the supreme interest is now its lifelike portrait of Chaucer. Hard by are Greek and Latin classics, a whole series of Biblical MSS., beginning with the *Codex Alexandrinus*, and other cases containing autograph MSS. of works by Pope, Defoe, Johnson, Burns, Coleridge, and Scott, Byron and Macaulay. We do not know what are the exact dimensions of the Manuscript Saloon—at a rough guess it may be some sixty feet square—but it seems to contain within itself a conspectus of the whole of literature.



Partingtonian Sociology.

[*A Plea for Liberty: an argument against socialism and socialistic legislation, consisting of an introduction by Herbert Spencer, and essays by various writers, edited by Thomas Mackay; 8vo, Murray, 1891.*]

THE tyranny of the physical idea still holds sway, not only in Darkest Africa, but in the centres of highest civilisation, and it dominates the political philosophy of some of our best thinkers. In the beginning a man's body was his only concern, and the protection of his life his first care, and it followed that the earliest conception of the beginning and end of good government was to protect the subject from his enemies, and to enable him to eat, drink, and be merry, to wive and to raise children. This primitive and limited conception of the duties of a government, the natural outgrowth of man's early surroundings, has, with some thinkers, almost reached the dignity of an instinct, and is laid down as a first principle, with all the dogmatic gravity of a theological doctrine.

Upon this doctrine rests the whole of the essays comprised in *A Plea for Liberty*. Starting with the hypothesis that the State has no right to interfere with anything beyond the Army, the Navy, and the Police, it follows that everything else done by the State is wrong; nor is it difficult to assert that if some things are done badly by a State department it is *because* they are done by a State Department.

The conception that the highest function of a civilised government is to cherish and cultivate man's higher nature and the encouragement of everything that makes for his mental welfare, has been of slow growth, but its slowness has been that of the oak. The wisest and best in all ages have recognised it, and now its roots have struck deep down into the hearts of the people and it will flourish. This is the new politics. There is no longer the ever-present fear of the enemy at our gates. We take prudent care to guard the State, but we recognise the

duty of the State to guard its citizens from the more insidious attacks of the armies of ignorance. That the tide of civilized opinion is flowing strongly in this direction is ignored or disbelieved by the apostles of the older gospel, and they are fain to sweep it back with their brooms of futile argument. Had they begun a hundred years ago they would have equally failed, but they would have produced more apparent effect on the gentle ripples of growing opinion and gained a short-lived credit for their efforts. As Englishmen, we respect the pluck which does not know when it is beaten, but we must not be asked to admire the intelligence of those who wage a hopeless war with a pertinacity which only a hope of success would justify.

Dame Partington "was excellent at a slop or puddle," and might even have achieved a cheap popular reputation had she wielded her mop against an ebb-tide. She failed to recognize that she had a flowing tide to deal with, and this blindness was her ruin.

The gentlemen whose mops Mr. Mackay has marshalled to lead a forlorn hope against the advancing tide of the higher civilisation are unfortunate in the time chosen for their attack. Just the time when the older Conservatism is recognising (and we believe, patriotically rejoicing in the recognition) that the movement which they had so long resisted is bringing in its train the greatest benefits to the Commonwealth, is scarcely a happy opportunity to advance arguments that fifty years ago would have escaped the stern logic of fact and experience which is now opposed to them.

The twelve essays, not counting Mr. Herbert Spencer's "General Introduction," cover almost the entire range of legislation which has done so much to raise the life of the people to higher levels during the last half-century, and dispute the right of the State to go beyond the narrow limits of the duties imposed upon it by the conditions of primitive barbarism. It is impossible for us to follow all the writers into their widely varying subjects, except to note that their fundamental doctrine is one, and that their lines of argument are closely allied. Our chief concern is with the article on "Free Libraries," which, though far from being the best, has attracted most attention from the fact that its subject is perhaps, at the present moment, the most interesting.

We might, however, in passing, note for our comfort that the same volume which contains, what its author fondly imagines, is the death-warrant of rate-supported public libraries, also

contains the final condemnation of the Post Office. If in future the poor artisan is to be compelled to buy the expensive books which are essential to his progress, he will be consoled by the fact that the wealthy merchant must also be his own postman or hire one for himself.

Mr. O'Brien, the author of the article on "Free Libraries," apparently feels the uselessness of the "first principles" line of argument for his case, and he rests it mainly on the two propositions, (1) that as *The Pilgrim's Progress* and *Rasselas* can be bought for twopence each, and Cassell's "National Library" at three-pence a volume—therefore there is no need for free libraries; (2) that idle people or those out of work use the libraries to lounge in and read the newspapers and the baser sort of fiction—therefore free libraries are a bane instead of a boon. The first of these arguments, if they are worthy of the name, ignores the fundamental purpose of free libraries; and the second the great and beneficent work they are accomplishing.

It is an insult to the intelligence of the nation to suggest that after forty years' experience of the growth and working of an institution which, with commendable and truly British caution, they were slow to welcome, they should suddenly develop a desire to spread and increase it if, during its years of probation, it had not proved itself a great power for good in spite of the incidental defects essential to all things human.

William Ewart had a difficult task, but he would have had an impossible one if he had tried to pass an Act the object of which was to provide the people with the kind of books the existence of which, in cheap editions, Mr. O'Brien thinks renders public libraries unnecessary.

The first and main object of the Act is to place within the reach of the poorer classes such works, beyond their means, as are likely to help them to help themselves to rise to higher things; for the artisan and skilled worker, such technical works as will enable him to compete on more equal terms with the sons of wealthy manufacturers who have gained their knowledge by a royal road, and thus give him a chance of achieving by his own efforts success and affluence; for the poor student, such literary treasures as will in a measure compensate him for the want of that higher education or University training he sighs for in vain; and, in a word, to place the fountain of knowledge within the reach of all.

That some Library Committees have yielded to the tempta-

tion of a cheap popularity and have spent too largely upon trashy fiction is unfortunately true, but even the worst offenders in this respect have not neglected their first duty, and we believe it would be impossible to find a single rate-supported library without a fairly representative collection of the best books—in science, the arts, and in *belles lettres*.

And, though we deplore the inroads that worthless fiction makes on the resources of some libraries, this is not an unmixed evil. Ample evidence exists that it is no uncommon thing to find the idle dabbler in fiction become, through sheer satiety and force of habit, a reader of better books.

But even if all Library Committees had sinned grievously in the matter of novels, surely it would not condemn the principle upon which Public Libraries were founded but only point to reform of management. Mr. Mackay's pleaders for liberty, in their wildest moments, do not venture to suggest that the people should not be compelled to pay for an army, and that each man should, *if he liked*, buy a gun and help to repel invaders; and yet by parity of reasoning they should urge that because the commissariat failed in the Crimea, and the rifles jammed and the bayonets bent in the Soudan, a State army is a mistake and should be disbanded. Or that because a big gun sometimes bursts and our ironclads have a knack of smashing each other, our navy should be taken out of the hands of the State and our maritime supremacy left to patriotism and private enterprise! With all their faults and failings our soldiers and our sailors have made England a great empire, and with all their defects our Public Libraries, the people's University, will make the English people an intelligent and a cultured nation.

Mr. O'Brien is fond of calling names, and among other epithets he bestows on the advocates of Public Libraries is that of "thieves." He says, "It is difficult [*i.e., for him*] to see any real difference between the man who goes boldly into his neighbour's house and carries off his neighbour's books, and the man who joins with a majority, and on the authority of the ballot box sends the tax-gatherer round to carry off the value of those books."

We presume Mr. O'Brien would have used the same argument had he been told off to write on public parks, public roads, public sewers, public lighting, or public police, instead of public libraries, and that he sympathises with that zealous champion of liberty, Bill Sykes, who complains bitterly of the injustice of compelling him to pay indirectly for the police, when he could get along so much better without them.

One more quotation—"We insist most strongly on the injury done to the pauperised recipients of the these favours"—*i.e.*, the privileges of the public Library. It is truly sad to contemplate the wanton injury inflicted by a rampant majority on such paupers as Scott, Macaulay, Carlyle, Ruskin, Freeman, Froude, Lecky, and even Mr. Herbert Spencer himself, who, heedless of the terrible risk, have touched the accursed thing and enjoyed the stolen goods of the Public Libraries, the Museums, and the Galleries. We pay Mr. O'Brien the compliment of believing that he is too consistent to argue that the pauperising effect only comes of sharing in the spoils produced by municipal rates, and that imperial taxes are free from this taint.

The readers of *The Library* are too well posted in the facts which Mr. O'Brien so freely misuses to bolster up his case to make it necessary for us to deal with them in detail. To every-one who possesses the slightest personal knowledge of the working of public libraries they carry their own refutation, but it may be amusing as well as instructive to note a few of the facts about the Library Association which Mr. O'Brien uses in support of his argument. There are few things easier than to get authoritative information about the L.A.U.K., not only from its own published records but from the public prints, and yet not a single statement is made about it, important or unimportant, which is not absolutely false.

FICTION.

Plea for Liberty: Page 341.—
"The Library Association of the
"United Kingdom, a body com-
"posed of librarians."

Id.—The Library Association
"has awarded a prize of ten guineas
"for a draft Library Bill which,
"among other things, permits a 2d.
"instead of a 1d. rate."

Id.—Still referring to the Prize
Bill—"No regard for the rate-
"payers' pockets holds them back
"(*i.e.*, from promoting it) but only a
"fear of injuring business by fright-
"ening the bird whose feathers are

FACT.

The members of the Library
Association are "persons engaged
"or interested in Library work."—
*Out of a membership of 454 only
187 are librarians, and of these
about half only are public librarians!*

The Library Association has
never offered or awarded a prize of
any kind for any object. The Bill
Prize was given by a private mem-
ber, and the Association took every
possible means of making it clear
that it had no responsibility for the
prize or the Bill.

The last paragraph partly answers
this. The Bill was discussed at
Reading, just as any other paper or
essay might be discussed. More-
over, in the circular announcing the
discussion this note was printed :—

"to be plucked. Were it not for
 "this, the Bill would be pushed
 "forward, and those ratepayers who
 "have voted for the adoption of
 "the Act, in the belief that no more
 "than one penny can be levied, would
 "have the rate suddenly doubled
 "over their heads without knowing
 "it."

"N. B.—The Council wish it to
 "be distinctly understood that they
 "have selected this Draft Bill
 "merely as a convenient basis for
 "discussion, and that they express
 "no opinion as to its provisions."

No one but Mr. O'Brien ever
 dreamt of the Draft Bill being pro-
 moted as an actual Bill !

Possibly Mr. O'Brien is capable of making accurate state-
 ments and of drawing reasonable deductions from facts, but if so,
 for some inscrutable reason he has in this essay done his best
 to convey the impression that he can do neither of these things.
 But to make up for this he uses a great deal of strong language,
 and at times tries his hand at a little sarcasm. He is particularly
 bitter in reference to a resolution that was proposed at Reading,
 and withers the unhappy mover in this scathing paragraph :

"In some parts of the world there is a law obliging a man
 who has a vote to record it; perhaps Mr. MacAlister will
 propose presently that we should be obliged to read the books
 in his libraries." This is very cutting, but as Mr. MacAlister
 is a Scotsman it is thrown away, and he will probably re-
 tort in all seriousness that such a rule would be an excellent
 thing—that it would compel Mr. O'Brien to read up his subject
 before he ventured to write, and with increase of knowledge
might come increase of wisdom. But perhaps Mr. MacAlister
 is too sanguine !

THE EDITOR.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Opening of the St. Martin's Free Public Library.

THIS handsome addition to the free libraries of London was opened on Thursday, February 12th, at two p.m., by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., in the presence of a distinguished company. On entering the building the right hon. gentleman was received by the Commissioners, and conducted to the Librarian's room, where he signed the visitors' book, and filled up a form asking for the first book. The company then proceeded to the Reference Library, outside of which the Vicar (Rev. John F. Kitto) presented Mr. Gladstone with a silver key, with which the ex-Premier unlocked the door amidst the enthusiastic applause of those assembled inside.

Mr. Gladstone was accompanied by Mrs. Gladstone, and those present included the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, Lady Frederick Cavendish, Mrs. Stuart-Rendel, the following Commissioners :—Lord Kinnaird, Messrs. W. Challice, Roger de Coverley, George James, Thomas Prescott, Major Clifford Probyn, Messrs. Churchwarden Drummond, David Laing, Thomas Mason (Librarian of St. Martin's), F. H. Bagguley (sub-librarian), and the following members of the Library Association :—Messrs. Chancellor Christie, Robert Harrison, W. Lane-Joynt, H. R. Tedder, J. Y. W. MacAlister, C. W. Sutton, W. H. K. Wright, Charles Welch ; G. Bell, J. D. Brown, F. J. Burgoyne, H. Burns, A. Caddie, W. E. Doubleday, W. R. Douthwaite, J. P. Edmond, E. Foskett, H. W. Fincham, Jas. Greig, L. Inkster, Miss James, Messrs. J. W. Jarvis, Herbert Jones, S. Martin, Frank Pacy, H. Quinn, A. B. Railton, W. A. Tweny, John Vicars (Mayor of Bootle) and J. R. Welch.

The CHAIRMAN (Rev. J. F. Kitto), after opening the proceedings with prayer, expressed the thankfulness of the Commissioners that they were able, after nearly four years of anticipation and difficulty and anxiety, to present to the parishioners their library finished and complete. They were thankful that they had been able to accomplish so much, and they desired, moreover, to acknowledge the forbearance and patience of the parishioners, who during the years of construction had ungrudgingly paid rates for an institution from which they had hitherto reaped no benefit. That which was now brought together was not the first library that had been founded in the parish. An illustrious and distinguished predecessor of his in the vicarage 200 years ago, Archbishop Tension, who was one of the foremost champions of education, founded a library in St. Martin's, but the books composing it had been distributed for sale thirty years or so ago. As a parish they had a right, he thought, to be proud of their history, proud of association with such names as Milton, Dryden, Reynolds, Hogarth, Sir Isaac Newton, and Cromwell, and in latter days with William Ewart Gladstone. It was more than fifty years now since Mr. Gladstone took up his residence in Carlton House-terrace. They welcomed him, therefore, as an old parishioner, as one who during that fifty years had held a conspicuous position in all that had to do with public affairs—a position, he supposed, of unparalleled interest and importance. He had done much to advance literature, not only by the works which he himself had written, but also by taking an active part in removing the restrictions which in former days had hindered the progress of literature. He had the honour now, on behalf of the Commissioners, to present Mr. Gladstone with a catalogue of the lending library, and to inform him that he was entitled now to borrow books. He would ask him to be good enough to declare the library open.

Mr. GLADSTONE, who was received with loud cheers, said—Mr. Vicar of Saint Martin's, my lords, ladies and gentlemen : I undoubtedly cannot deny that I have a title, though a questionable title, to appear before you in connection with a purpose of great interest to the parish of St. Martin. I say a questionable title, because I feel a little in the condition of a Parliamentary elector who was properly placed upon the register, but who, having the misfortune to change his abode, has lost his vote. I beg, therefore, that you will not look too closely into the nature of my qualification. It is a truth that, if I could overlook the comparatively brief term of years since I ceased to have a residential connection with St. Martin's, I might also aspire almost at one time to the title of the oldest parishioner, or not be very far from it, for I lived in this parish, with scarcely any intermission, from the year 1837 to the year 1876 inclusively. And I must add that it was not my will, but a prudential regard to circumstances, which caused me to seek a humbler abode elsewhere. If I were still living among you no one would be able to question my former right to invite you to recognise me as your coadjutor upon an occasion such as this of very great interest. I believe my first duty is to declare this library opened, and I can declare it with a good conscience, inasmuch as that office was committed to me in actual earnest as the key was placed in my hands and I myself unlocked the door. Under those circumstances I declare this library to be opened ; and I believe it is my duty and my privilege, having performed that function, to become the first to profit by the library. I therefore take the liberty of handing to the librarian a requisition, duly drawn and signed, in which I ask not, indeed, for the Book¹—for if one book is to be selected from all others for its merits, and for its dignity, and for its office in a Christian land there could be no choice as to what that book should be, but I do not ascend on this occasion to that elevation, and I cannot do better than ask for the local tract or treatise on the parish of St. Martin written by the late respected vicar, Mr. Humphrys.

(Mr. Gladstone here presented a reader's ticket, duly filled up, to the librarian, who in return handed Mr. Gladstone the book.)

Now, having spoken of my own qualification, and the defects in it, I must also say that I am very glad to recognise St. Martin's as a parish which I believe to be forward in the promotion of all those undertakings which give, and are likely to give, it a distinguished place among the parishes of London.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, this is not a very old movement. The Act under which you have been enabled to carry this design into effect dates from 1850, when I was myself beginning to be a somewhat old member of Parliament. The author of that Act was a gentleman of the name of Ewart, a name which I have the honour to bear as a surname, and he was a man whom I very well remember, and whom I had the honour and pleasure of knowing. Mr. Ewart, the author of that Act, was a cultivated man, a scholar, and highly respected in every relation of life, and his name deserves to be recorded, in that he was a man of more than one subject, a pioneer working his way forward, doing the rough introductory work in the interests of the nation upon subjects which at that time but few were beginning to appreciate. The appreciation of his work in regard to libraries, which produced the Act of 1850, has resulted in a great deal of progress. The progress for a length of time was not very rapid. In thirty-six years, from 1850 down to 1886 there were 133 places which availed themselves of the benefits of the Act. That was not a very large number, not quite an average of four in each of those thirty-six years. But still slow progress in infancy is not always a bad sign. We are not a people whose minds move rapidly, but we hope that they move securely, and that the progress which we do achieve is solid progress, and that we are not so much given, as possibly some people might be, to stepping backwards when we have once made up our minds that it is our duty to step forwards. See the change which has taken place in four years, from 1886 to 1890. No less than seventy places have taken advantage of the Act, so that instead of less than four places in the year we have an average of more than seventeen places, in the year. That is a

¹ We believe it had been intended that the first book issued should be a beautifully bound copy of the Bible, which had been presented to the Library by Mr. Roger de Coverley.

rate of progress which we ought to regard as satisfactory. No doubt many questions with regard to the Act arise, and most of them have been ably discussed by Mr. Greenwood. But on some of these there may be differences of opinion. You are aware, for example, that it is now in the power of any qualified person to demand a poll of the parish upon the acceptance of the Act. That is not an unreasonable proposition, because at the time it was first imported into the Act, this foundation of libraries was not like the ordinary recognised functions of municipalities, it was in the nature of outside operation, and it was therefore not unreasonable or impolitic that the people themselves should be distinctly consulted on the question whether they would have a library or not. They have availed themselves of the privilege of refusing in some instances, and Mr. Greenwood states that in a single year twelve places declined to have the Act put into operation among them. But until the country has fully recognised that the foundation of these libraries is the ordinary duty of a local municipality, it probably will not be a bad thing that the public—the local public—should be consulted upon the question.

LIBRARIES IN RURAL DISTRICTS.

There is another great difficulty undoubtedly, and that is in the extension of libraries of this kind from places of comparatively large population, to which they are now confined, into the rural districts. That is a very serious difficulty, because where you have a large population concentrated upon a very small space you can give the whole of that population a nearly equal interest in the library, for it is accessible to all; but where you have in purely rural districts a much smaller population, distributed and diffused over a space perhaps twenty or fifty times larger, there it is very difficult, as persons conversant with rural districts will know, to put all on anything like an equality with regard to access to the library, and of course it is to be expected that where people do not recognise either an immediate or an immediately prospective benefit to themselves and their families, they should be disinclined to undertake the burden which the Act enables them to impose upon themselves. Mr. Greenwood, who is a vigorous and zealous advocate, has a remedy for the difficulty, a very simple remedy, that the first Lord of the Treasury with whose presence we are honoured on this occasion, will at any rate appreciate. His remedy is a small dose of public money—a short and invaluable specific for supplying all deficiencies, for surmounting all difficulties, and for curing all evils. I must own it may be that in old age one loses one's nimbleness and power of keeping up in a competition of pace, but I am not entirely equal to following Mr. Greenwood in the recommendation that the Consolidated Fund should be made the source of supply for institutions of this kind. But I hope you will understand that I don't wish to give up the case of the villages and rural districts. We have got in this country a very peculiar distribution of the land. It is held in large quantities by wealthy men, by wealthy men who recognise to a great extent—and who I hope, from generation to generation, will still more largely recognise—the proposition that the possession of landed property entails great social duties. Instead of the Consolidated Fund, what I hope is that the liberality and the enlightened judgment of these large proprietors scattered all over the country will meet the difficulty and enable the villages also, either upon their own basis or by affiliating themselves to the town libraries—which is a plan which, I believe, has been adopted with very good effect in some places—will enable them to enjoy the great advantage of institutions of this kind. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I have spoken to you of the general progress achieved, but besides being parishioners of St. Martin's, you are Londoners, and as Londoners it is well, I think, that you should understand how the metropolis stands in this matter. Now, for a long time the metropolis was stiff, reluctant and hard-hearted. A gentleman¹ sent me only yesterday a letter written by Mr. Ewart himself, from which I will read you a quotation. Mr. Ewart had been cognisant of the fact that in the year 1855 an attempt had been made to induce the City of London—which certainly need not have been apprehensive of an undue or exhausting pecuniary burden of a penny in the

¹ Mr. C. W. Sutton, Public Librarian of Manchester.

pound—to induce the City of London to accept the Act; but the City of London declined to accept the Act, and Mr. Ewart wrote a letter to a friend in which he said: “I trust that, notwithstanding our recent unsuccesfulness, the free library system will flourish *even* in the City of London.”

METROPOLITAN LIBRARIES.

Well, now, had Mr. Ewart been amongst us to-day he would have seen that the faith which he entertained—that faith which is a very characteristic quality of men who see far into the future and work for the future, and not merely for the present day—had been amply justified. For a long time London was most obdurate. Down to 1886—that is, thirty-six years after the passing of the Act—London had only two libraries, but in the month of June, 1890, instead of two it had nineteen. That is to say, the rate of increase going on in London was more rapid than in any other part of the country, and what appears likely is, that these valuable institutions will, in a very short time, be strewn thickly all over the whole face of the metropolis, and that there will be no parish without an establishment of the kind. That is a very satisfactory state of things; and if we are content with a moderate but ever-growing success—and that is what a prudent man in this world ought usually to be content with—I think we may be thankful to see what has been done in this direction, and may look forward to the future with a confident anticipation of still greater achievements. This institution is not an isolated phenomenon. The foundation of libraries is one amongst many features of the modern tendency and movement of British society. There is a rough question put by Mr. Carlyle,—“Why is it that there is not a library in every town? You will find everywhere police, a prison, the gallows; why have we not a library?” No doubt as we go back to the period of my own entrance into this world the broad indications of the social system were penal and coercive. I remember once I was at the house of a friend in a certain county which I will not name, and I told him I had read that in that county there was a great number of gallows in the rural parishes. That was the case in the old time—it was not an arrangement confined to great towns, but it went through the country as a local parochial institution, very much like that almost forgotten, but venerated institution, the stocks. My friend observed that I was mistaken, that it wasn't his county, but a neighbouring one. So it was. But on a little further investigation into the matter I found that there was a place in the village called Gallows Green, and that was nearly putting conviction on the point in question.

Happily a great change has taken place. We have less to do with gallows, less with the prison, than in former times.

SOCIOLOGY.

There is a word which has come into existence since I was young, and which indicates this change in a wide and comprehensive way—that word is sociology. It is rather an awkward word, because it is not a word of pure parentage. It is partly Latin and partly Greek, but we are so poor we cannot manage any better, so the word sociology has been started, and a very important word it is. It indicates the great system of education which has now gone over the country; it indicates the foundation of museums; it indicates the foundation of art galleries and of libraries; and it indicates, I am very glad also to say, it indicates the foundation of institutions having a view to the corporal health and development of the people and the maintenance of their physical properties. Because we attach great importance to the foundation of museums, art galleries, and so forth, and because we think that pen, ink and paper are indispensable to human progress, let us not forget that we can never separate the properties of a man's body from those of his soul. If you want a man healthily developed you must develop him as a creature of body, soul and spirit; and therefore I rejoice to think that great attention is being given to these pursuits by means of gymnasia and other places, which I couple with the institutions directly addressed to mental improvement, and I regard them all as being jointly responsible in a great and good work. I don't mean to say and I do not think you will believe that institutions of this order are institutions which will of themselves enable man to attain the highest

purposes for which he came into the world, or that they will effectually supply all his needs or what he may require in consequence of his infirmities and sins. It would be a very great mistake if we were to place institutions of this kind in competition with the religion it is our happiness to profess. On the contrary, they own religion as their very parent, in the same way that Christianity is the parent of philanthropy, from which all forms of benevolent principles extend themselves. We know that not to be an idle boast or an arbitrarily expressed opinion. We know it in this way, that if we go back to the greatest people of antiquity in whom intellectual acquirements were developed perhaps in a greater degree than they are even at the present day, philanthropic developments were almost lost. Never until Christianity came into the world did they begin to make themselves known in the form of the doctrines now implied by the term sociology. In any case it is in no spirit of rivalry or hostility that these institutions find themselves standing upon the same ground. This is really a symbol of the friendly relation which ought to obtain, and which, I am happy to think, does as a general rule obtain, between the smaller developments of our time and those still greater, higher, holier, and more powerful and profound influences which are connected with the Gospel of our Saviour.

READING AND RELIGION.

But in how many ways these institutions are preparatory for religion, and in how many ways they are helpful to it! These libraries, these gymnasia, these museums, this system of popular education—they are the enemies of what? They are all the instruments with which a war is carried on, and a war against what?—A war against ignorance, a war against brutality, a war against idleness; and ignorance, brutality, and idleness are among the greatest of the auxiliaries by which the kingdom of evil and mischief is sustained and supported in the world. You cannot doubt that the action of these institutions is a great and enormous good conferred upon mankind, and when we speak of brutality happily we are enabled to think of it now as of an idea and tendency that has become remote. It seems as if it were buried in the long-gone past; but it is not a very remote past. If we go back less than two hundred years we find that past-times that were distinctly brutal were the habitual pastimes of the people of this country, nor do I see that they are to be blamed for it. Cruelty has a tendency to show itself in connection with the thoughtless enjoyment of mankind, and I recollect that in those times the people had little option, for they had no employment for the mind. After labour of the body, when it is severe and continuous and pressing heavily upon the physical faculties of the man, he must and will seek and find some relief, some alternation, and some refreshment, and it is the fault of those who omit to provide him with the refreshment that is good, if for the want of it he is driven to the refreshment that is bad. I am reminded of the drink question, which is now more or less in the minds of everybody, and though it would be very hard upon a particular class of the community that they should be held up as the enemies of public improvement, still there is no doubt that these institutions are to a very great degree directly in competition with the public-houses of the country. It is a very pleasant thing to know that the condition of our labouring population has changed in respect of the means of mental and bodily improvement in two ways.

LABOUR AND LEISURE.

First of all, institutions necessary for the people which did not previously exist at all have been largely provided, and are now provided more liberally than ever; and secondly, there was another difficulty, and that was that the hours of labour, such as they were one hundred or even fifty years ago, after deducting the hours absolutely necessary for food and the hours absolutely necessary for sleep, left no margin in which the mass of the labouring population could apply themselves to mental improvement. Now, happily, a great change has taken place in that respect, a change which has been associated, possibly in some quarters, with expectations that are of doubtful prudence or possibility—but these are the mere outlying incidents of very great and beneficial alterations. It can now be said that the hours of labour for a very considerable portion of the working population

are fixed within bounds so reasonable—although they still leave the lot of labour a lot sufficiently severe—yet they are fixed within bounds that when the necessary hours for rest and food are added to them, there still remains a margin available for real leisure to the working man. Now there is a competition of evil assailing him, visible, sensible in the streets through which he must pass; let there be also a competition of good in beneficial institutions of every kind which will offer him the means of employment of that leisure, not only without difficulty or disadvantage, but with a promise of the greatest satisfaction to himself and the greatest advantage to his family, to his home, and to the children who succeed him in the world. His leisure may be employed in these libraries. How happy it is to see with what zeal and promptitude all over the country the working population have exhibited their readiness to take advantage of the opportunities offered to them. There are other uses for libraries such as these. I have been promised the power of reference to books here—a very useful power it is, especially with regard to books in series which run out into great bulk. To all classes this power of reference will be of advantage. It is to the masses of the community that libraries are principally valuable; it is by these masses that they have been largely, and will be I believe still more largely, appreciated. There is one kind of appreciation which I cannot help contemplating with a greater interest than many—that is their use by the very young, by the intelligent growing lad, by the lad who is just beginning, perhaps only in the humble capacity of a messenger, perhaps as an apprentice, but in one way or the other beginning to show the mettle of the man and faculties which, if well used, will develop into something valuable and comparatively great in the future. It is in libraries like this that a youth of that kind may derive the greatest benefit. His mind is full of material; it is such an institution as this that may impart the vital spark to it, that may inspire him with ideas altogether new, with the sense that his mind is capable of progress, that his faculties, if used assiduously, continuously, and manfully to a given purpose, will assuredly obtain a valuable end. There is no place perhaps among the various occasions that ordinary life may offer where he is more likely to receive these benefits than within the walls of an institution of this kind. I do not speak of the selection of books of an institution—a task ever arduous and ever difficult, but which I have not the least doubt in this instance has been admirably well performed. On every ground I feel that in taking part in inaugurating and in commending to public notice and public interest this library, every one present is discharging a valuable and important public duty. The very crowd that attended us on our passage from the vicarage was in itself a testimony of how the men of London appreciate an occasion of this kind. You have got the material, you have got human material upon which to work; you have got the pecuniary means by which to work; you have put these means into beneficial operation; and I assure you that the most earnest desire of my heart is that prosperity and success and social and moral improvement may attend increasingly from year to year the progress of St. Martin's Library.

Mr. W. H. SMITH, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Gladstone, said he felt himself fortunate in being permitted to take part in that ceremony with his right hon. friend on an occasion on which they were thoroughly at one and concurred heartily with each other. He had listened to Mr. Gladstone's speech very attentively, though he would not say critically. They listened to each other sometimes in another place with a somewhat different disposition. One gratification to which Mr. Gladstone did not allude, but which rendered him peculiarly fit for the duty he had discharged so admirably, was to be found in the circumstance that he illustrated in himself the enormous value of a taste for literature. He could not help feeling that Mr. Gladstone's love of literature must have been a rest, a recreation, and a refreshment to him. Reference had been made to the comparatively slow progress of the library movement in London. He admitted it had been slow, but he conceived that it was the more certain because it had been slow. Those who had lived in that great city for many years could not but feel deeply thankful that there was evidence on all sides of marked improvement in the social habits and customs of the people. They heard of the diminution of convictions for criminal offences, and he thought that the contrast between the present time and twenty, thirty, and fifty years ago was something for which they had deep reason to be thankful.

Lord KINNAIRD seconded the motion, remarking that when Mr. Gladstone had been asked to add another to his many labours and open that library, he at once consented to do so.

The vote of thanks having been passed with great enthusiasm,

Mr. GLADSTONE, in reply, said: This vote of thanks, ladies and gentlemen, is most acceptable to me as an expression of your feelings, and as giving your general approval of the sentiments by which I endeavoured to commend the cause for public libraries to your favour. It is specially gratifying to me, and I feel it to be a cause for gratitude from me, that Mr. Smith, with his many occupations, should have undertaken the office with which he has kindly charged himself, and should have spoken of me in such warm terms—which was to be expected from the known qualities of his disposition—and in terms which, whether or no I deserve them, I shall gratefully remember. The vote was the more satisfactory to me because it was seconded by the son of a very old friend, with whom I set out on a tour to remote parts of Europe about fifty-two years ago, and from whom, down to the very day, or very nearly the very day of his lamented death, I almost continuously received marks of the warmest kindness.

At the conclusion of the ceremony a marble tablet was unveiled on which was recorded the opening of the Library by Mr. Gladstone, and giving the names of the commissioners, architect, builders and librarian. We are told that Mr. Gladstone made his selection of a book at the last moment when it was impossible to get near the press in which the book was, and Mr. Mason, with Mr. Gladstone's consent, provided a substitute without disclosing the fact to the audience. As chance would have it, the book selected was the late Henry Stevens' *Who spoils our new English Books*,¹ a selection peculiarly appropriate, as one of the buildings pulled down to make way for the Library was occupied for many years by Mr. Stevens.

After the ceremony a large number of visitors passed through the various rooms. The premises are excellently designed for their purpose and everywhere display a forethought and care born of experience and practical knowledge. We were pleased to observe that Mr. Mason has already got together a large and very valuable local collection—at present chiefly composed of prints illustrating the parish.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

Written notes or authenticated newspaper cuttings are more welcome than whole newspapers.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be forwarded.

AVR.—The design of Messrs. Campbell, Douglas and Morrison, Architects, of Glasgow, for the new Public Library, has been selected by the committee. The cost will be about £7,000.

¹ Originally read as a paper before the Library Association at the Cambridge Meeting.

GLASGOW.—This year is the centenary of Stirling's Library, and the directors are appealing to the public to enable them to celebrate the event by freeing the institution from debt.

GREENWICH: A public meeting was held at the Duke Humphry Hall, Greenwich, on January 26th, in support of the movement for adopting the Public Libraries Acts in Greenwich. The Rev. D. Reith, Rural Dean, presided, supported by Mr. G. C. Whiteley (Liberal candidate for Greenwich), Mr. R. S. Jackson, L.C.C., Mr. J. McDougall, L.C.C., Sir Thomas Crawford, K.C.B., &c. The hall was well filled. Mr. Rowland Hill moved a resolution, strongly approving the proposal to adopt the Public Libraries Acts, and Mr. Whiteley seconded. An amendment was proposed by Mr. Cooper Willis, Q.C., seconded by Dr. Ball, declaring it undesirable, in view of the heavy rates, to undertake at this time the unnecessary burden of an additional rate. The amendment found about forty supporters, but the resolution was carried by a large majority. A poll was taken on Feb. 7th, with the following result:—In favour, 1,633; against, 2,592.

KENDAL.—A town's meeting was held at Kendal on February 4th, to consider the advisability of establishing a Public Library for the town. The Mayor (Mr. G. J. McKay) presided. It was moved that the Act be adopted if £2,000 could be guaranteed for furnishing, books, &c., for the Old Market Hall, and an amendment was proposed that £4,000 should be guaranteed. After a long and at times warm discussion, the resolution was carried by a large majority, and a committee was elected to solicit subscriptions.

KEW.—Mr. J. G. Baker, principal assistant in the Royal Gardens, Kew, has been appointed to the keepership of the herbarium and library, vacant by the retirement of Prof. Oliver, who will now devote himself to editing Hooker's *Icones Plantarum* for the Bentham trustees.

LEEDS.—At the recent annual meeting of the proprietors of the Leeds (Old) Library the resignation of the librarian, Mr. H. Morse Stephens, was announced.

LEEDS.—On February 12th, a deputation from the School Board waited upon the Library Committee to request that they would add to the number of libraries in Board Schools, and give facilities for the use of the books during the day by the children. We understand the Committee will endeavour to meet the wishes of the Board.

LEICESTER.—On Jan. 24th, the Library was opened for the first time on Sunday. There were upwards of 500 visitors.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—The vestry have decided to try the experiment of opening on Sunday.

LONDON: POPLAR.—The Library Committee are endeavouring to raise a sum of £15,000, in order to build and stock two good libraries. More than £3,000 has already been subscribed. Dr. Corner, Manor House, Poplar, is the treasurer, to whom gifts should be sent.

LONDON: ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The hours during which the library is now open have been altered this year. It is now kept open until 7 p.m. Last year the total number of readers was over 10,000. During August the library is closed at 6 p.m., and during September it is entirely closed. A *List of the Transactions, Periodicals, and Memoirs in the Library of the Royal College of Surgeons of England* has been prepared by the Librarian, Mr. J. B. Bailey.

LONDON: WILLESSEN.—A committee has been formed to obtain the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts in the parish of Willesden, and the members are actively engaged in bringing the question before the rate-payers.

MANCHESTER.—At a recent meeting of the Manchester Chartered Accountants Students' Society, Mr. H. C. Marshall, A.C.A., delivered an interesting and instructive lecture on "The Public Libraries of London." Briefly, but at the same time exhaustively, Mr. Marshall, in his paper, sketches the growth of the movement, pointing out the success each library has achieved, and indicating the lines on which each is conducted by the committee or commissioners who control it.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Considerable discussion having been raised upon the subject of last year's expenditure, and the fact that the Book Committee had only been able to expend the sum of £45 on new books, the question of closing the Durham Street Branch Reading Room came before the Committee on December 10th. It was alleged by members that the growth of the town rendered a reading room in that position unnecessary, and as it was costing about £150 per annum, it was formally moved and carried, "That notice be given to the owners to terminate the tenancy on the 1st April next." This, however, caused considerable dissatisfaction, and at a meeting of the Council held on January 13th, it was resolved, "That in future the minutes of the Library Committee shall be submitted to the Town Council for confirmation monthly, in the same manner as the minutes of other committees appointed by the Council." On January 21st a motion to rescind the resolution of December 10th was brought forward, but after some discussion an amendment, "That the time of notice be extended to June 30th," was carried, with three dissentients.

NORTHAMPTON.—A movement is on foot at Northampton to raise a Bradlaugh Memorial Fund, which, it is suggested, should, in the main, at least, be invested in municipal funds, the interest being employed in the purchase of books for the Northampton Public Library. It is believed that this would most nearly represent the wishes of the late member.

NORWICH.—The third popular lecture of the winter series in connection with the Public Library here, was given in Blackfriars Hall on February 3rd, by the Rev. W. F. Creeny, M.A., F.S.A., the subject being "Riding a Hobby in Sweden and Gotland, and Sights by the Way," illustrated by the oxy-hydrogen light. The Mayor of Norwich presided; about 450 persons were present, and the lecture was one well calculated to create a thirst for more knowledge and stimulate to further research.

NOTTINGHAM.—Mr. Briscoe has had unbroken success so far, with his "Half-hour talks," of which about fifteen have now been given. The idea is a capital one and should be widely copied.

PETERHEAD.—The design of Mr. M'Millan, Architect, Aberdeen, for the New Public Library, has been selected by the committee. The probable cost will be £3,000. Mrs. Carnegie has been asked to lay the foundation stone.

ROTHERHAM.—On February 5th the first of a series of meetings was held in the ladies' room of the Public Library to "talk generally with the readers about the books of the Library," and also with the object of forming reading circles. The Vicar of Rotherham (the Rev. W. Law) presided. A deputation attended from the Rotherham Reading Circle. There

was a large attendance. The Vicar alluded to the reports of the Home Reading Union and the Free Libraries, showing how large a proportion of books read were novels and how small was of a solid and profitable kind to those who took them out. He spoke of the necessity that those who were interested in public libraries should promote the reading of healthy literature rather than that which was light and in some cases, unwholesome and positively harmful. The Rev. J. C. Hill stated that the Public Library Committee would only be too glad to do what they could to help readers, and to afford them every facility to talk about books or any special book. After a discussion it was decided that the meetings should be held weekly.

RUGBY.—The building presented to the town last year by Mr. R. H. Wood was formally opened as a Public Library, on February 7th. The Rev. C. Elsee, chairman of the Local Board, presided, and among those present were Dr. Percival, the Head Master of Rugby, and Mr. R. H. Wood, the founder. The Chairman said he hoped that would always be a red-letter day in the history of Rugby, when they were able to enter upon the enjoyment of that gift to the town of their liberal benefactor, Mr. Wood. It was a happy coincidence that this gift should come to the town just about the time that technical education was coming so much to the front. The two, they hoped, would help one another. In conclusion, he proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Wood for his gift, and to all who by their subscriptions had aided and promoted the work. Dr. Percival, in seconding, said they must all feel that the present generation was marked by the growth of the desire to do good service to those among whom we live, especially to our poorer friends. Looking back thirty or forty years, they could not but feel what an immense change had come over the spirit of the country in that respect; how much more prominent in the minds of most persons was the duty they owed to their neighbours. Wherever they went they saw young men and women engaged in some duty or service to their neighbours, and especially to the poor, in that spirit which was the genuine spirit of our common Christianity, and the one thing which above all others ought to distinguish us as Christians. That spirit was just what was represented on that occasion. It was one of the many signs of the new movement for public libraries and institutions for general good which was peculiarly distinctive of our times. The gift of a free library to a community was an inestimable gift. To give a place where the poorest as well as the richest could gather and study all that is best of past times was most invaluable, and there was no form of liberty or equality to be compared with that which made all that was best of the past accessible to everyone. They ought to be very thankful to Mr. Wood for that inheritance, and his name would always be associated with two of the most beneficent institutions of the place—the Hospital of St. Cross and this building, which would be a centre of intellectual and moral influence for the years to come. The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation. Mr. Wood, in returning thanks, said that what he had done had been to him a matter of the greatest pleasure. He made various suggestions as to the development of the different schemes, and hoped the reference library would receive gifts of valuable books. The librarian is Mr. J. W. Kennery.

TIVERTON.—A Public Library is in the course of formation at Tiverton, to be supported at present by voluntary aid.

NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—The fourth meeting of this flourishing association was held in the Nottingham University

College on Thursday. It was attended by the librarians of Free Public, Mechanics' Institutions, Co-operative and Proprietary Libraries in Nottinghamshire and the adjacent counties. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, the president of the association. The President gave an address, in which he indicated the progress in library work in the North Midland district, and touched upon the subjects to be brought before the meeting. Mr. Midworth of the Stock Library, Newark, introduced the question of Mr. M. D. O'Brien's assertions respecting free libraries. This subject was taken up with considerable spirit, and upon a proposition of Mr. Herne of Leicester, seconded by Mr. Midworth of Newark, it was unanimously resolved "That this meeting of the North Midland Library Association most earnestly protests against the charges levelled against free libraries by Mr. O'Brien and others as indicated in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of February 10th, and desires to place on record its sense of the great harm such statements and charges are calculated to do." A note on assumed names in literature having been read by Mr. Paul Herring, of the Nottingham Central Library, it was arranged that a register of such pen-names as are reported to the president by members of this association would be kept by Mr. Briscoe and deposited in the Nottingham Reference Library. It was decided, upon the invitation of the Borough Librarian, to hold the next meeting at Loughborough on Thursday, April 16th. Mr. Briscoe was re-elected president of the association, Mr. Herne was elected vice-president, and Mr. Radford was re-elected secretary and treasurer. Thanks were accorded to the University College authorities for the use of the meeting room. The Bromley House Subscription Library was visited, and some of its treasures displayed by Mr. Moore, sub-librarian. The party having proceeded to the Castle, where tea was served at six o'clock, Mr. Wallis, the curator, kindly exhibited some of the art treasures, and was cordially thanked. The Nottingham Central Libraries were subsequently visited, and the party dispersed about nine o'clock, having spent a profitable and enjoyable half day in Nottingham.

Practical Librarianship.

CATALOGUING OF PERIODICALS.

I have come to the conclusion that the present system of cataloguing periodicals is hardly the best that could be devised. By the present system, I mean the widely adopted geographical arrangement under the places of publication, which, altered by arranging the places alphabetically, is in use at the British Museum. I am of the opinion, based upon my own requirements, that as a general rule the title of the periodical is better known than the place of publication, and therefore to cause a reader to make two references instead of one, *i.e.*, from the title to the place of issue, is a needless waste of time. I should very much like to hear the opinions of Librarians upon the following plan:—Full titles and cross references to sub-titles and changed titles in one alphabet; in a separate list a geographical arrangement with very short titles, and in a third list a classified list or index according to subjects. Of course the last is entirely optional, but there can be no doubt as to its usefulness, in a large library especially.

While on the subject of periodicals, I should like to enquire whether any of your readers know of a London library which possesses a bound

collection of first numbers, of any time during the last quarter of a century. I should be very much obliged for any information thereof.

ROBERT A. PEDDIE.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

20, Hanover Square, W.

THIS Association was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the International Library Conference held under the presidency of Mr. John Winter Jones, Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its objects are (a) to encourage and aid by every means in its power the establishment of new libraries; (b) to endeavour to secure better legislation for public libraries; (c) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of libraries; and (d) to encourage bibliographical research.

The Association has, by invitation of the local authorities, held Annual Meetings in London (three times) Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, Glasgow and Reading. The next Annual Meeting (1891) will be held at Bristol, during the autumn.

An examination for Library Assistants has been instituted and certificates are issued to those who satisfy the examiners.

A large number of valuable papers have been published in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *The Library Chronicle*, and in *The Library*, its official organ, which is sent post-free every month to all members.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The annual subscription is one guinea, payable in advance, on the 1st January. The life subscription is fifteen guineas. *Library Assistants approved by the Council pay a subscription of half-a-guinea.*

The Hon. Secretaries will be glad to receive papers on appropriate subjects, for reading at the monthly and annual meetings.

Library Association Record.

THE last monthly meeting was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, February 9th, at 8 p.m., Mr. Chancellor Christie in the chair. Sir Herbert Maxwell, of Monreith, M.P., 52, Eaton Place, was nominated for election at the next meeting. Mr. Ogle read a paper, entitled "The Selection of Geological and Biological Books for a Free Public Library." The paper, which formed a very comprehensive guide to the literature of the subject, was discussed by Messrs. Tedder, Burgoyne, James, Wakeling, and the Chairman. A vote of thanks to Mr. Ogle for his excellent paper terminated the proceedings.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING.

The next monthly meeting will be held at the Public Library, Richmond, by the kind invitation of the Library Committee, on Friday, March 6th, at 7.30 p.m. A paper will be read by the librarian, Mr. Frank Pacy, entitled "Some Notes on the Richmond Library."

N.B.—The Richmond Public Library is on the Little Green, close to the station, which can be reached from Waterloo, District, Metropolitan, or North London Railways.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Hanover Square, W.—Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publishers, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

The Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

OUR Library, though it possesses many interesting rarities amongst the printed books, is chiefly known for the magnificent collection of manuscripts, accumulated by Archbishop Matthew Parker and bequeathed by him to the House, which he had ruled as Master for nine years. Of these probably the oldest is No. 304, Juvenius (*Historia Evangelica*), which may be assigned to the latter part of the sixth century; but by far the most notable is a copy of the Four Gospels (No. 286), which a not-unreasonable tradition asserts to have been one of the volumes that Pope Gregory the Great sent from Rome for the use of St. Augustine of Canterbury. With this, till lately, was grouped No. 197, but a careful examination enables us to decide that this latter book (a fragment of St. John's Gospel) must have been written nearly a century later either at Lindisfarne or perhaps at Dublin. In this class our Library is still growing.

In chronicles also we are rich; of these two (Nos. 16 and 26) were composed, written, and illustrated at St. Albans Abbey, immediately under the direction of Matthew Paris, and were corrected by his own hand; his reputation, even in his lifetime, was so high that by special command of the Sovereign an honourable place was assigned to him at the coronation of Henry III., May 17th, 1220, in order that he might write a full account of the ceremony. His chronicle was edited by Archbishop Parker, and has lately been republished, under the care of Dr. H. R. Luard, our University Registrar, in the great national series which we owe to the sagacity of Lord Romilly, Master of the Rolls. Amongst the artistic decorations that our chronicler has added to his work there may be noted an itinerary from London to Jerusalem, giving a picture of some characteristic building at each notable posting place, a *mappe mundi* and a *vernicle*.

Other *separate* itineraries we have, and in particular one (No. 210) the autograph and inseparable companion of William [Botoner] of Worcester: he was an indefatigable pedestrian,

who traversed England in the last quarter of the fifteenth century from Norfolk to South Wales and Cornwall, recording the dimensions (by steps) of all notable buildings by the way. Particularly interesting details are given of Norwich Cathedral and of the Church of St. Mary Redclyffe, Bristol; the work was published by James Nasmith, 8vo, Cambridge, 1778.

No. 452, a heterogeneous volume put together, probably, at the time of Eadmer's death (about the year 1145), is the only known contemporaneous copy of that author's final revision of the *Historia Novorum*. It has supplied the text of the Rolls' edition of the *Historia*.

No. 332 contains two treatises by St. Anselm, written, there can be no doubt, by his friend and disciple Eadmer, and enriched with autograph corrections by the great primate himself.

Our chronicle by Richard of Devizes (No. 339) appears to be his draft copy, from which the Cottonian manuscript (Domit. A. xiii.) was his fair transcript—each is the autograph of the chronicler, and contains a "Brut" chronicle, followed by a special account of the reign of Richard I.

The Northampton chronicle (No. 281, ii.) ranges from the Nativity to 1339 A.D.; after the year 1150 A.D. the book appears to have been written up, year by year, by the successive historiographers of the Cluniac House of St. Andrew at Northampton.

In liturgiology also we are strong. No. 270 (eleventh century) embodies, in all probability, a direct transcript from the sacramentary which St. Augustine of Canterbury brought with him to England, and is the only known manuscript possessing a well-established claim to exhibit the authentic text of Pope Gregory's final recension of the Roman Liturgy. No. 473 is a Tropary, written at Winchester in the tenth century, which contains hymns and musical notation of rare interest; No. 79, a Pontifical written and illuminated for Bishop Clifford, of London, is one of the best authorities for Anglican use at the beginning of the fifteenth century; but the earliest of all in this class is a Psalter and Litany with the usual Canticles (No. 272), dated to the close of the year 884 A.D., and written probably at or near Rheims; it contains one of the earliest copies of the *Quicumque vult*, and the *Ave Maria* is inserted in the margin in a far later handwriting, just before the Apostles' Creed. In the kindred class of *Synodalia* (No. 121) may be mentioned as containing (amongst many documents of the

highest interest) the copy of the Forty-two Articles which was issued by the Synod of London in A.D. 1562, with autograph signatures of the Prelates there present; the marginal marks in red chalk against the last three of these Articles are doubtless in Parker's own handwriting.

Of our seven Psalters, one (No. 411), of the end of the tenth century, was the property of Archbishop Thomas of Canterbury; another (No. 53), written at Peterborough, shows by the cusped arcading of its illuminations and general style, that it was written and illuminated about the time when our own Old Court was commenced, 1352-1360 A.D.

But to many eminent scholars in America, Austria and Germany, our Parker collection is chiefly known for its wealth in Anglo-Saxon literature; in this there are five distinct classes: Gospels, Annals of England (*The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, No. 173), Glossaries, Homilies (Aelfric's *Lives of the Saints*, seven volumes), and Canons. A copy of Prudentius's *Psychomachia* (No. 23) is enriched with drawings by a Saxon artist, several of which (including the Poet's portrait), bear titles both in Saxon and Latin.

These earliest English books seem without exception to have originated at Winchester, Bath, and other places in Wessex. The Gospels (No. 140) bear the name of the Scribe (Aelfric) and of his Prior (Brithwold); the volume was immediately considered of such sanctity, that an Abbot of Bath, before the close of the eleventh century (Aelfsige, ob. 1087), inscribed in it several records of manumission; these have been published in Ellis's edition of Dugdale.

Our copy of Martianus Capella *De Connubiis Deorum* (No. 153) was, doubtless, one of John Bale's books, and contains British glosses of the ninth century, which are probably the oldest written remains of our earliest language. For mellow beauty we have few illuminations superior to the full-paged frontispiece of a copy of Chaucer's *Troilus* (No. 61), dating from the middle of the fifteenth century.

French literature also is not unrepresented, witness the *Proverbes de France* (No. 450, 84), the *Scalacronica* (No. 133, 2), published by the Maitland Club, the story of Richard Cœur-de-Lion's exploits (No. 432), which M. de Wailly published¹ (from another copy) as *Récits d'un ménestrel de Reims au XIIIe.*

¹ For the Société de l'histoire de France, Paris, 1876.

siècle, and the Anglo-Norman fabliau, *Le Chevalier, La Dame, et Le Clerc* (No. 50, 2), which was selected by M. Paul Meyer for publication in the first number of *Romania*; but the most beautiful in this class is an early copy of *Le Miroir des Dames* (No. 324), which was written for Jeanne de Navarre, wife of Philip VI., and bears on the verso of the first fly-leaf the autograph signature of Charles V. of France.

Parker's keen sense of what would be interesting to posterity is nowhere more clearly shown than in the volume (No. 119) of autograph letters of his contemporaries; these include long signed letters by King Edward VI., by Queen Anna de Bouillan (*sic*), by Colet, Luther, Calvin, and almost every notable character of the Reformation-age.

In Latin we are not strong; but yet our twelfth century Terence (No. 231), the *Thebais* of Statius (No. 230), and Claudian (No. 228), deserve a brief mention; of Cicero we have three manuscripts, none earlier than the fourteenth century; two of them, the *Rhetorica* and *De Finibus* (Nos. 158 and 409), are remarkable for being in the beautiful Italian fifteenth century character, upon which Aldus appears to have formed his well-known earliest type.

Of Greek manuscripts our oldest is probably a Psalter with Hymns (No. 480), dating from early in the thirteenth century, and containing marginal notes in the handwriting of Bishop Grosseteste. Euripides is represented by a small quarto (No. 403), containing the *Hecuba*, *Electra*, and *Phoenissæ*, written on silken paper and dating from the beginning of the fifteenth century; of about the same date is our small 8vo copy of Hesiod (No. 248, 4, 5), which includes his *Ἔργα καὶ Ἡμέραι* and *Θεογονία*, bound with the *Ἔπη χρυσῶ* of Pythagoras and other Greek treatises.

Our great folio volume containing Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, with the *Paralipomena* of Quintus Smyrnaeus (No. 81), is enriched with a few lines on the first leaf by the hand of Archbishop Parker; he gives us some particulars of the life of Archbishop Theodore of Tarsus, whom he believed to have been an owner of the volume; it appears, however, from the water-mark and general style of the book to have been written in Italy towards the close of the fifteenth century. A paragraph by Josselyn (Archbishop Parker's secretary) tells how a baker at Canterbury rescued it from among some waste paper (*inter laceras chartas*), remaining from St. Augustine's Monastery after

the expulsion of the Monks, and how the Archbishop welcomed it as "a monstrous treasure."

Of this collection two catalogues have been printed—the first by W. Stanley, D.D. (Master of the College, 1693-1698), folio, London, 1722; the second by James Nasmith (Fellow of the College, 1765-1773), F.S.A., 4to, Cambridge, 1777,—it is his numeration that has been followed in the summary given above.

March 19th, 1891.

S. S. LEWIS,
Librarian.



An Introduction to the Theory of a State-Paper Catalogue.¹

IN order to render the State-Papers of any country properly available to the student, there are three indispensable preliminaries, which it is well to mention here.

The first is an *Annual List of State-Papers* arranged under the Departments by which they are issued. The second is an *Annual Report on the State-Papers* entered in the Lists, dealing with the system of compilation, the relative use, and the contents of the more important Reports. The third is a *State-Paper Catalogue*.

The first two subjects I shall hope to deal with on a future occasion, and the third is too large a subject to be quickly scrambled over. I shall confine myself, therefore, to-day to a few remarks introductory to the Theory of a State-Paper Catalogue.

I feel that no excuse is needed for my choice of subject, and that it is quite unnecessary, before such an audience, to dilate upon the intrinsic value of State-Papers. No one can have paid the slightest attention to the class of works in question and be ignorant of the existence of numberless reports of the greatest value, not only on such subjects as are obviously matters of Government Administration, but upon those branches of science, literature, and art, which are too commonly supposed to be matters of private enterprise alone. But if librarians have a knowledge of such matters, the same can scarcely be said of the outside public, for the ignorance which is generally displayed on the subject is truly deplorable, and must have been noticed by us on many occasions.

In regard to British State-Papers for instance; there seems to be an idea generally prevalent that all English State-Papers consist of dry *statistics*—a strange fancy, but, I believe, in no

¹ Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Reading, September, 1890.

way exaggerated. It would seem as if the average Englishman argued thus:—Statistics are issued as “Blue Books.” All English State-Papers appear in Blue Books; therefore all State-Papers consist solely of dry statistics.

We find that similar prejudices exist in other countries, and the natural result is that reports worthy to be read of hundreds of thousands are read by tens of hundreds, and reports of world-wide interest and value have a circulation little wider than the shelves of connected departments.

Let us take the case of America. What *general* knowledge shall we find concerning the existence of the splendid publications of the Smithsonian Institution with its connected Departments, or concerning the reports of the Bureau of Education, the Agricultural Department, the Census Reports, or those of the numerous Surveys?

In regard to India: What *general* knowledge shall we find concerning the contents of the Indian Scientific Surveys, the Archæological Surveys, or the large body of interesting reports of an historical or geographical nature, apart from reports of numerous other departments, which testify to the wondrous administration of a wondrous empire?

Or if we turn to France: What *general* knowledge shall we find concerning the vast store of valuable science and art documents which have been issued by the French Minister of Public Instruction and by other departments? The answer must be, I fear, in every case, unsatisfactory.

The question which naturally suggests itself then to our minds is this:—What have Librarians done to dispel existing illusion and prejudice on the subject, and to enlighten the popular ignorance?

And although I would willingly plead a defence of my own craft, I fear I can give no very satisfactory answer. It is true we cannot force an unwilling horse to drink, but, have we led him to the water?

If we turn to the more prominent countries it is in vain that we seek for a comprehensive catalogue which fulfils the conditions requisite in a State-Paper Catalogue. And here let me anticipate a shower of contradictions by shielding myself behind a definition, viz., by stating what are the conditions demanded in the compilation of such a work.

Firstly: a State-Paper Catalogue should consist exclusively of official State-Papers. This is the first condition, and yet the one

which is most often violated. It is a wrong principle to mix known and unknown factors together, for the natural result is that the insertion of the one cancels the certainty of the other, and renders the whole imperfect. Now State-Papers are *known* factors. Anyone who has the slightest knowledge of the system of Administration obtaining in a country can say with certainty that such and such reports should be found, even though he may never have seen them or heard mention of their existence. And if such State-Papers be kept separate by themselves, it is possible eventually to render them accessible to the public in a satisfactory manner.

Compared with State-Papers, however, all other works are practically uncertain factors. You never know what proportion of works on a given subject you may expect to find in a catalogue. You probably are ignorant of the different views which dictate them, while the principles which govern the cataloguing of the one clash with those which control the other, and confusion is the natural result.

Secondly: A State-Paper Catalogue should be a Continuous Catalogue, from the earliest date onwards. And this necessarily implies that the volumes shall not be bound up annually according to *Years*, but according to *Subjects*.

For some purposes it may be quite right to have State-Papers bound up according to the Year, but from the point of view in question it is absolutely wrong. Thus, in the case where you wish to consult reports on Public Instruction for the last twenty years. According to the *annual* system of binding you would have to consult *twenty* different indexes, and from *twenty* different shelves you would have *twenty* different volumes brought you, each containing in addition fifty or 100 reports which you do not want (and where pagination is often absent we know it is no easy task to find one report out of 100 others).

In cases where Ten-Year indexes are published, you would of course only have to consult two indexes, but my subsequent remarks would still hold good. Contrast on the other hand the facilities afforded by the system of *Subject-binding*. You wish for the reports of twenty years. All you have to do is to look at *one* entry in *one* catalogue, and you have your reports brought to you in a brief moment, from *one* shelf, and contained probably in *one* volume (or certainly in not more than five volumes). These illustrations are sufficient to prove the merits of the one system and the defects of the other.

Thirdly: the title should generally be entered in full, as far as is necessary adequately to express the contents of the volume, and to enable you to identify a report with ease. Here, again, we see the advantages of the system of binding by *subjects*, for the result of binding by *years* is to encourage *indexes* to the exclusion of *CATALOGUES*, and indexes will never present the same number of titles with the same fulness as catalogues would. In fine, a State-Paper Catalogue should be compiled in such a manner that a student can find any given report, or collection of connected reports (from the earliest date onwards), described under the department or subject concerned, subordinate to the country to which the reports relate. These are the main essentials. But I find that my definition is imperfect, for I have omitted to define the term "*State-Paper*." And indeed it is not easy to define it in a moment; for although we know that State-Papers form a class distinct by themselves, it is not always easy to assign the limits, for at this point we have to take into consideration the different forms of Government in various countries, and judge each on its own merits.

This is not the time, however, to pursue such an inquiry, and, therefore, we shall confine ourselves to the general statement that *State-Papers are those Reports which are published by the Supreme Government of a State or Collection of States, or by the direct Representatives of the Supreme Government.*

India furnishes us with a good example of a Supreme Government, with separate subordinate Provincial Governments. The United States, of course, supply another similar example. But what about the new phenomena of Local Government in the form of County Councils or Municipal Bodies, if they publish Reports of Proceedings?

For answer, we refer back to our definition of "*State-Papers*." Is the County Council the *direct* representative of the Supreme Government? In effect: is the Local Government a miniature Supreme Government, conducting all the ordinary branches of the Imperial Administration only on a Provincial scale?

The answer is in the negative. The County Council is a representative, but not *the* representative of the Supreme Government. Equally so in the case of English Municipal Government.

For these reasons, therefore, it seems right to exclude this class of works from the general body of a State-Paper Catalogue, although there would be no harm if they were included as an Appendix.

Finally, in regard to Semi-official papers (as also in the case of a certain class of Official Reports relating to Science and Art), we have no option but to catalogue them in duplicate, that is to say, both in the State-Paper Catalogue, and also in the General Catalogue, the only possible alternative being in those cases where it may be found advisable to omit them as main-titles in the one and make instead copious general cross-references or notes to the other.

Bearing in mind then our definition of State-Papers, and the conditions to be fulfilled by a State-Paper Catalogue, I am afraid that our search will be fruitless.

We most of us know that in 1885 the U.S. Government published a work which is a marvel of perseverance and industry, entitled: *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Government Publications of the United States . . . 1774 . . . 1881. Compiled [under the directions of a Joint Committee on Printing] . . . by B. P. Poore . 1885, fol.* But apart from the descriptive matter, it is only a chronological *Register*, with an Index of Matters at the end, and would stand no comparison with a properly compiled Catalogue of the same papers arranged according to Departments and Subjects. Thus, if we wished to know what are the published works of the U.S. Geological and Geographical Surveys up to 1881, we should look in the Index of Matters, and be referred to fifty-five different pages. Now the catch-words, or catch-sentences, under which the separate titles are entered, are so unsatisfactory that one has frequently to scan the whole page, certainly once, if not more times, in order to find a required entry, and since the average number of title-entries on the first two and last two pages referred to is fifty a page, according to this estimate, in order to view fifty-five different entries desired, we might have to scan the greater part of 55×50 , or 2,750 different entries in order to find the 55 required, and under extreme circumstances we might have to scan a couple of thousand entries in order to find one single work alone.

As a matter of fact, in the particular instance just noted, there are Departmental lists of these identical publications mentioned. But a State Catalogue which has to rely upon Departmental catalogues which are often not forthcoming, is not worthy of the name of a catalogue, and a system which admits of such complications is assuredly no system to encourage.

Apart from the above criticism, the titles in this catalogue are not *always* full or literal, which is a fact also to be lamented.

Before I pass from America, however, I should mention that an enterprising publisher at Washington, Mr. Lowdermilk, is making meritorious efforts in connection with the cataloguing of U.S.A. State-Papers on a more practical basis, and we must wish him every success in his undertaking.

Mr. J. H. Hickcox, also of Washington, has published for some time a monthly catalogue of U.S. Official Publications.

If we turn to India, we shall come across certain Catalogues issued by the Government of India, and a Catalogue of the Documents in the Marine Survey Office at Calcutta, by Mr. Carrington; also a Catalogue of the Library of the Indian Museum.

Next we shall find the Catalogue of the India Office Library, and the valuable Catalogues of the India Surveys Maps and Charts which have been published. But these are all *Departmental* works.

I am told that the Austrian Government once published a very complete list or catalogue of Austrian State-Papers, but I have never been able to obtain a copy, so as to be able to judge of its character.

In England, it is true, we have, in the Official annual printed Indexes to the Parliamentary Papers, the next best substitutes for a continuous State-Paper catalogue, but, as before stated, such indexes are accompanied by great disadvantages. I should mention, however, that Mr. Dorset Eccles, while in charge of the Newspaper Reading Room at the British Museum, commenced an annual Card Index to the English Parliamentary Papers, the accessions of each year being afterwards incorporated with those of previous years, dating from 1885, and that the Index referred to has been most useful, both for reference while the official index is in progress of compilation, and also as a Supplementary Index.

In France, Hachette publishes Lists of French State-Papers, as Spottiswoode does in England, but from their very nature these lists must be of a periodical character. I think, therefore, I have reason when I say that there is a great want of continuous State-Paper Catalogues.

But supposing that we wished to compile such a catalogue, how should we set about it? On what principles should we compile it? And with this question we plunge into the theory of the subject.

Given a country and a mass of State-Papers to catalogue.

Now in order to appreciate the significance and the relative value of the numerous factors with which we have to deal, it will be necessary to commence from the very beginning.

We start, then, with two main factors: I. *The Life of a Country* (consisting of facts and groups of facts, mostly connected in greater or less degree), and II. *The Government which controls that Life* (as shown in the method of Government, in the method of compiling Records of that Government, and in the method of publishing those compiled Records).

We find, then, that the ideal Theory of Publication is dependent (a) on the actual occurrence of facts according as they are more or less intricate in their connection with one another (b), as also upon the mode of treating those facts pursued by the Government, as shown in the organisation and functions of departments (c), as also upon the manner in which the Records of Government are compiled (d), as also upon the manner in which the compiled Records are published.

Thus, if the facts in question exist in simple or well-defined connection with one another, or with the whole, and the mode of treatment, *i.e.*, the system of Administration, be logical and simple, and the manner of compiling the reports be logical with itself, or in harmony with the principles of Catalogue-Classification, and the subsequent stages of publishing the reports (including binding), be reasonable and logical, then the cataloguer's difficulties would be imaginary, and all the stores of official wisdom would be made accessible to the public as with a stroke of the magician's wand.

But—and here commence our difficulties—it is needless to say that such a convenient arrangement never exists. There are few countries which have not their share of tangled and intricate institutions—the growth of ages. Assuredly there can be no country in which we can find absolute and permanent harmony between the several Departments and the subjects entrusted to their charge. There is no country in which the system of Departmental Classification necessarily harmonizes with the system required to be adopted in the case of a State-Paper Catalogue; and there are no countries which we can hold up as examples in their adherence to correct principles of Compilation and Publication. In the case of India, for example, it is obvious that no system of departmental organisation and reporting could be very simple, where it has to evolve order out of so many varied systems of Law, with corres-

ponding numbers of Law Courts. Similar and partly connected complications appear in connection with the numerous Land Revenue systems obtaining in different portions of India, while, as regards illogical connection of subject and department, and subsequent error in matters of compilation and publication, any general illustrations of any special country would be superfluous.

Realising then the nature of the difficulties which we may expect to encounter, it is most essential that we should get a clear idea of the particular principles which we should follow, in order that, when in cataloguing, we meet with other principles which are at variance with our special object, or encounter violations of the general principles of Classification, we shall be able to detect where the divergences occur, and be in a position to counteract the bad effects so far as is possible.

First of all, then, it is most important to note (as we have hinted before) that the principles of subject grouping in regard to a State-Paper Catalogue are not necessarily the same (as is too commonly supposed) as those which affect the grouping of Subjects under a department, and consequently influence the compilation of departmental reports.

All classification naturally depends upon the particular object desired. Thus the *Department* will classify its facts in order to facilitate its own particular ends in view (often a matter of expediency rather than of desire).

In the *General Administration Report* of a Province, departments and subjects will be re-classified according to a method best calculated to meet the requirements of a Review of Provincial Administration.

The *India Office* (in its report on the Moral and Material Progress of India) will re-classify subjects and departments on a broader basis as suffices for a bird's-eye view of the Administration of all India.

And similarly the *Cataloguer of State-Papers* re-classifies subjects and groups in order to fulfil the special object which *he* has in view. Now we have already defined that object, but it will be convenient to repeat it.

Given a country, our general object is so to group the subjects of our country as best to facilitate reference to reports written on those subjects; or, to put it more in detail (as before stated), so to arrange our groups that any student may be able speedily to ascertain what reports, from the earliest date onwards, have been published on any Subject-Group, or on any part of

that Group, and find any such reports entered under the country to which they relate.

We say, then, that there are in our country a certain number of Groups of subjects (liable, of course, to increase) for which separate reports may reasonably be expected to be found. We therefore single out these most central subjects, with their parts in the Administration of the country, and endeavour so to manipulate them as to make each group exclusive of every other group. But this we find to be impossible, for we find that certain groups regarded as "*wholes*" are connected with one another, and that even where the groups, as *groups*, are mainly unconnected, that there are often certain factors which are common to many groups, sometimes in *definite* relationship, at others in *indefinite* relationship to them.

Thus in India the groups of *Agriculture, Land Surveys (Trigonometrical, Topographical and Revenue)* and *Land Settlements* may generally be considered as separate groups, but they are very closely connected, and are, or have been, often reported upon in common.

As a further illustration of the manner in which a subject will enter into numerous groups in *definite* relationship we may mention *Meteorology*, which necessarily enters into the composition of India Administration as much as it does unnecessarily into English conversation. Thus, apart from standing as a group by itself in the light of a Meteorological Department, it enters subordinately into the composition of the following groups:—

Agriculture.
Arboriculture.
Financial Administration.
Forestry.
Irrigation and Navigation.
Land Revenue Administration.
Land Revenue Settlement Dept.
Products.
Public Works Dept.
Post Office Dept.
Revenue Administration.
Sanitation (Military and Civil).
Telegraph Dept.
Trade.

In fact it is obvious that the state of the weather may affect any group besides the ones especially mentioned.

Again, as regards a subject being common to many groups with *indefinite* relations to them, we have only to mention Indian History and Geography (taken together). Now if anyone wished to peruse all that has been written on the subject of the past history of the Indian people, including their manners and customs, legends and lore, and on the physical features of the country, he would at the very least have to peruse the reports on the following subject groups or their subdivisions.

Firstly, those reports which relate avowedly to the subject, *e.g.* :—

Archæological Reports.

Gazetteers.

Geographical Travels and Expeditions Reports.

Historical, Geographical and Statistical Reports and the Records Commission Reports.

Secondly : he would have to scan the pages of the *General Administration Reports*, as also of reports relating to such diverse subjects as—

Censuses.

Language.

Military Expeditions.

Political Missions.

Routes.

Telegraph Administration.

Land Revenue.

Land Revenue Survey and Settlement or Land Records, Agriculture and Settlement Reports of each Province, and also the Reports on the Great Surveys of India, Revenue, Trigonometrical and Topographical.

Every one of the above subject groups reports will often contain identically the same information in regard to this broad subject of history and geography. Since, therefore, we cannot arrive at absolute exclusiveness of all the groups, we have to content ourselves with the nearest approach to it, and we therefore arrange our groups in such a way that each group can assert *prior* claim if not *sole* claim to all its parts. And in illustration of this principle we cannot do better than quote Mr. Clements Markham's words in regard to the sectional arrangement of the Moral and Material Progress Reports of India, where he says that each section treats "of a special administrative subject or group of subjects, the aim being to include in each section those subjects which have more characteristics in common with one another [for the purpose in question] than

any of them have in common with any other report not in that section."

Now although Mr. Markham enunciates this general principle in special reference to the object of an Annual Review of Indian Administration, the general principle applies equally to all species of classification, whatever the object may be, and thus to the grouping of subjects for the purpose of a State-Paper Catalogue.

We have now arranged our different Subject-groups, and have called them each by the name which is calculated most clearly and accurately and yet comprehensively, to designate the contents. But we do not bind ourselves to keep to these groups, for fresh principles now come into operation in connection with the extent and composition of each group and otherwise.

Thus, if our groups are large ones, and we find that there are series within series contained in them, we should proceed to subdivide them; but we must be cautious in so doing. For while Over-centralisation is an evil, so also is an excess of Decentralisation. If we omit to subdivide large groups which admit of clearly-defined groups being further extracted from them, the result will be an unsatisfactory vagueness, which renders it less easy to trace the several parts. If, on the other hand, we split up our groups too much, we are in danger of losing count of the numerous scattered fragments, and of having to scour the whole Catalogue in different directions in order to discover their existence.

Our golden rule then is this: *Avoid the two extremes of excessive Concentration or Separation, and be sure that your groups, even if they are not absolutely exclusive of one another, are at least clearly defined.*

In accordance with the above principles we shall hold ourselves at liberty, if necessary, to split up any one group into two or more sections, ^{*(a)} either retaining those sections under the group, or separating them, ^(b) and raising them to the rank of groups, each under its own designation. (We should take care, however, that there be connecting General cross-references between the separated parts, unless the connection be obvious.)

But even yet we have not finished enumerating the different possible modifications of our Group-arrangement. Instances occur where an important subject, which has a standing of its own, is found attached to a group which has direct claims

* For examples of (a)—(e) See Appendix.

upon it, but not *exclusive* claims. In such an instance (*c*) we should sever the attachment, and raise the part to the rank of a group—taking care, however, as in the previous instance, to show the connection between the two.

Furthermore, if any case (*d*) arose in which no group existed for a new part come to light, we should enter that single part separately as if it were a group. Geographical considerations (*e*) will often necessitate other modifications, when we have to deal with subjects which cross the provinces of a country, such as Railways, Rivers, Canals, or Mountains.

These are the more common cases, which may necessitate interference with our imaginary Group-arrangement. And they are sufficient to show that we must not expect to find any one relationship of group to group, but all three relationships of "*Sub-ordination, Super-ordination, and Co-ordination,*" and sometimes, as already hinted, *No-ordination*. And now to proceed with our theory.

Having settled our groups on a broad basis, and re-settled them according as subsequent circumstances demand, and having pointed out the possible relationships between them, it remains for us to base the compilation of our reports upon those groups as much as possible.

We have stated before that the Theory of Departmental classification is not necessarily in harmony with the system of the Cataloguer. It follows naturally that the Record of those classified Facts may be at variance with the Cataloguer's ideal system of Compilation.

Thus, in regard to Compilation, we may take it that, from a departmental view, so long as a report contains an accurate and logical record of facts in accordance with the main object of the record, other matter may be included (either for convenience or of necessity) which may have nothing directly to do with the real subject of the Report. While in regard to Publication, so far as the purposes of Departmental Administration are concerned, it is sufficient to affix a name which shall accurately express the main object or the general contents of a report, without immediate reference to other publications on the subject. Thus, in such instances Compilation is not necessarily carried out with any special regard to future Publication, Publication being perhaps only called in at the last moment to make the best of Compilation as it stands.

From the cataloguer's point of view, however, in regard to

State-Papers, the *Theory of Compilation* pertains to the accurate and logical record of facts not only in reference to the immediate object of a special report or group of reports, but also in reference to the position which it shall afterwards occupy among all other works, as determined by the manner in which it is subsequently published.

For the furtherance of these two objects it is necessary that all compilation shall be based upon a certain Subject-Group arrangement specially designed to forward the mutual interests of both objects, to the detriment of neither.

It naturally follows that the *Theory of Publication* is the logical outcome of that of *Compilation*. It is that by which the world is best enabled to benefit by each printed record, taken separately or collectively with other works, and thus relates primarily to the *manner* in which such printed records are issued.

Thus Publication is to Compilation as Compilation is to Facts, or, in other words, the object of Compilation is to make Facts accessible; the object of Publication is to make Records of Facts accessible.

A good illustration of the difference between the *Publication* systems of Departments and Cataloguers will be found in the case of reports relating to the annual Administration of Government Farms in India.

Thus in the North Western Provinces, we find the same reports styled in six different ways within a period of ten years, e.g., as the Reports of the—

1. *Government Experimental Farm [Cawnpore].*
2.*Experimental Farm, Cawnpore.*
3. *Cawnpore Experimental Farm.*
4. *Cawnpore.....Farm.*
5. *Cawnpore Experimental Station.*
6. *Cawnpore Agricultural Station.*

While in the case of other Provinces we find further four variations of title, e.g.,

7. *Government Farm.*
8. *[District] Government Farm.*
9. *Experimental Station.*
10. *Agricultural Station.*

Now it is apparent that each of the above title-phrases expresses accurately the contents of the report, and is, therefore, from a departmental view perfectly satisfactory. But from our point of view, ten different title-phrases for ten similar publica-

tions is unsatisfactory, because if there were ten separate Provincial Catalogues, each compiled separately, and we wished to peruse these ten kindred reports, we might have much difficulty in finding them, as they might very possibly be indexed under ten different sub-headings instead of under one parallel sub-heading.

We want (before any title) two terms common to all the reports, which shall express accurately, simply and yet comprehensively (*firstly*), the Group to which they belong, and (*secondly*) the special section of that Group, with due reference to other publications on the subject; and these terms we find in the words, AGRICULTURE and FARMS.

In illustration of the difference between the two theories of Compilation we may again refer to the subject of Indian History and Geography, and we shall find that while archæological and statistical surveys have been organised and separate archæological, historical, geographical and statistical reports issued, it has been found convenient or necessary, from departmental points of view, that in the absence of purely historical and geographical Departments, any other Department whose duties permitted opportunities of observing the manners and customs of the people, of describing their history and noting geographical aspects of the country, should record that information, which should be entered in the report on the operations of that Department, whatever that Department be.

And thus it happens that we find a vast store of historical and geographical information in reports which were primarily written for other objects, and relating to such divers subjects as have been enumerated on page 135, commencing with the Census and ending with the reports of the Three Great Indian Surveys.

That such a system of Compilation should render it difficult or impossible to trace the required information is not surprising. *Firstly*. Because such information exists in so many unlikely and different places. *Secondly*. Because even if a reader knows that he will find his information in a certain report which is written mainly on another subject, it is impossible for him to know to what extent or at what intervals the subject has been included, so that he may have to skim the contents of twenty volumes and perhaps find fifty pages on his subject in the twenty-first volume, or find no mention of it at all. *Thirdly*. He may find his one subject so closely worked into the other that at first sight it is indistinguishable from the other, and when recog-

nised is very inextricable, and in all cases it is quite a chance whether he find any mention of the inclusion of his subject either in the table of contents or on the title-page.

The Cataloguer's theory of Compilation and Publication shows us the cause of the evil and its possible remedy or counteraction. The germ of it lies in the statement that—

Subject A shall be reported upon in Report A, and shall be called Report A, and shall be bound up with Reports A.

It rests upon the truism that no information (which is supplied for the sake of future reference) should be entered in print except where we may most reasonably expect to find it, and the Theory of Publication further dictates the precise manner in which it should be published so as to enable us best to make use of it. This involves the details of separate issue, correct association in series, correct and comprehensive title and title-page, use of half-title-page to sectional reports, where necessary; use of appendices, proper tables of contents, the necessity of printing a report in the same year in which it is written, and the system of Binding according to Subjects.

We may make our meaning clearer, perhaps, by the following rule:—Given our country, the subjects of which are divided into twenty-six divisions A—Z, the composition of any report A shall not be more (if it can be avoided) than is absolutely necessary to the special purpose which Division A should fulfil, if, by such composition, matter is included under Division A which is wanting to complete the perfectness of another Division B, and that if it be necessary that the composition of Division A contain matter which is vital to the composition of another Division B, the arrangement of the composition of Division A shall be such as shall enable Division B to benefit by the matter referred to.

The above, of course, holds good in reference to any subdivisions of the several divisions. More technically this last statement may be further explained.

No Department A shall publish reports on Department B.

If it be necessary for Department A to publish matter relating to Department B, that information (*if it have an exterior importance*) shall be if possible conveyed in the form of a separate Appendix B, with separate half-title; being also noticed on the title-page to the whole report. Or, if it be absolutely necessary to work subject B into subject A throughout the report, subject B shall be if possible entered in separate *chapters* or *paragraphs*, and shall

likewise be noted in the table of contents and on the title-page, so that in either case a cross-reference may be made from B to (B under A), thus showing the existence of the one and the connection between the two, and where it is considered inadvisable to make a cross-reference, we may often find a "Note" of great assistance.

Finally, as regards the *Binding* of our reports, the Theory of Publication demands that for a State-Paper Catalogue, no annual report A shall be bound up with any other reports, except with reports A.

To sum up the main points of this paper, I have endeavoured to show :—

That "State-Papers" form, as a whole, a class distinct from all other printed works, and should therefore be treated in a manner peculiar to themselves. This renders it necessary that a State-Paper Catalogue should be exclusively devoted to State-Papers.

That since we have to contend with subjects and departments intricate in themselves, and with systems of Classification, Compilation, and Publication, which are often at variance with the principles which pertain to a successful Catalogue, we can neither detect the causes of our difficulties, nor remedy them in any degree, except we first enunciate clearly our own standard of principles according to our special object, by which to measure other systems.

That in regard to the actual compilation of a State-Paper Catalogue in its main points, it should be a *Continuous* Catalogue. It should possess *full* title-entries, entered under the countries to which the reports relate. (It is very common to find countries sub-ordinated to subjects.) And since *Subjects* are the only reliable factors with which we can deal, we take notice primarily of *Subjects* alone, only recognizing *Departments* when they tally with their Subjects, or when it is impossible to ignore them, and only grouping by *Authors* or *Place*, in very rare instances.

Furthermore it has been pointed out, that having assigned our Subject-groups generally, and re-settled them in detail, showing the connection between them, we should endeavour to preserve the reports which relate to our Subject-groups, each under its respective group, and that when we find reports wholly or partly belonging to one group or more, inseparately attached to the reports of another group, we shall convey that information either by Cross-references, or by Notes entered under the groups where such reports might ordinarily be searched for.

Finally it has been shown to be essential that the binding or reports should tally with the cataloguing of them.

This is the sum of what I have now to say in introduction to the Theory of a State-Paper Catalogue, and now I will only remark in reference to the spirit in which this paper is written, that it is not for Librarians to dictate to Governments or to Departments the manner in which they should compile their reports, but since Librarians are called upon to deal with such publications—to arrange and catalogue them for the benefit of the State, no one will censure them for pointing out what are the principles which affect the success or failure of their efforts, or for showing that the principles of Departmental *Publication* of State-Papers may in many instances be with advantage assimilated with those which pertain to the successful *cataloguing* of the same.

F. B. F. CAMPBELL.

APPENDIX.

EXAMPLES TO ILLUSTRATE SECTION ON SUBJECT GROUPING.

(a) **Sanitation:**

Report, &c.

—**Diseases.**

Report, &c.

—**Military Branch.**

Report, &c.

—**Vital Statistics.**

Report, &c.

(b) **Public Instruction:**

See also **Schools and Colleges.**

See also **University.**

Report, &c.

Schools and Colleges.

Report, &c.

University.

Report, &c.

(c) **Light-Houses.**

Report, &c.

Public Works Department.

See also **Light-Houses.**

(d) **Windmills.**

Report, &c.

(c) **BENGAL.**

Public Works Department.

—Irrigation Br.

Report, &c.

SPECIAL RIVERS AND CANALS.

Reports on the Rivers and Canals specified below will be found under **India**.—Rivers, &c.

B. River.

C. River.

C. Canal.

D. Canal.

&c., &c., &c.

Railway Department.

Report, &c.

SPECIAL RAILWAYS.

Reports on the Railways specified below will be found under **India**.

—Railways.

B. Railway.

C. Railway.

&c., &c., &c.

INDIA.

Rivers and Canals.

This Sub-heading includes all Reports relating to the Irrigation or Navigation of specified Rivers or Canals, whether published by the Supreme Government or by the Local Governments.

B. River.

Report, &c.

C. River.

Report, &c.

C. Canal.

Report, &c.

D. Canal, &c.

&c., &c., &c.

Railway Department.

See also **Railways.**

Railways.

This Sub-heading includes all Reports relating to specified Railways, whether published by the Supreme Government or by the Local Governments.

B. Railway.

Report, &c.

C. Railway.

Report, &c.

Note.—The character of the above type in the Appendix must not be accepted as final, but it is sufficient to illustrate the theory of Subject-Grouping.



Jottings.

"Let the gall'd jade wince." We have thoroughly enjoyed the very severe and abusive letters that some champions of Liberty (with a large L, Mr. Printer!) have favoured us with in consequence of our notice of Mr. Mackay's volume of essays. If abuse and argument were the same thing we should be utterly subdued; but, luckily for us, argument seems to be disdained by the opponents of the Free Library Movement.

A sturdy lie seems to come easier! Witness the speech of a Mr. Frank Stebbings at Lowestoft, reported in "Notes and News." If that person is correctly reported, he deliberately quoted Mr. John Morley as having said, "Eighty per cent. of the books read at the free libraries were of a licentious, lewd and low character."

It would have been an insult to have asked Mr. Morley if this statement were true, but it was so widely copied that we thought it well to ask him to give it a positive denial, and he writes, "There were, of course, no grounds for any such statement."

We wish the opposition joy of their champions. At the same Lowestoft meeting a Mr. Capps counselled his fellow-workmen "to pull up" the trees recently planted to beautify the town!

Referring to a notice of the catalogue of the library of the Huguenot Society of America in *The Library* of January last, the librarian writes to inform us that she is not responsible for the errors in the appendix to which we drew attention, that appendix having been entirely the work of the Society's Library Committee, and compiled without her knowledge. We are sincerely glad to hear that Miss Baldwin had no part in so strangely inaccurate a composition, but surely it was hardly fair of her Committee to insert such a piece of work in a catalogue bearing their librarian's name on its title-page?

Miss Baldwin takes exception to our remarks on the classification adopted by her, but we still fail to perceive why a comedy of Terence and a treatise on the Cakchiquels should be considered as falling under a common heading. The classification seems to go either too far or not far enough.

In "Notes and News" this month exceptional prominence is given to the opening of a small library of about 2,000 volumes, at Sale, for the sake of the notable speeches made on that occasion by Mr. Alderman Bailey and Mr. George Milner. Mr. Bailey's speeches are always fresh and invigorating. The sturdy common sense of these two typical "Manchester men" is worth a whole library of such clap-trap as *A Plea for Liberty*.

The *Building News* continues its useful series of articles on "Free Public Libraries." The number for March 6th contains details of the St. Martin-in-the-Fields Library.

A correspondent of the *Spectator* draws attention to the existence of a Lending Library for the Blind, which, set on foot in 1882 on the most modest scale, now numbers considerably over two hundred members, and has more than eight hundred different works, representing some seventeen hundred odd volumes in all, on its shelves. These are mostly in the Braille type, and include many standard works, four French books, and a few small magazines, besides which there are over one hundred pieces of music. Reports of the library and all other information will be gladly supplied by Miss Arnold, 114, Belsize Road, London, N.W.

Mr. Henry Ling Roth has just completed a translation of Crozet's *Voyage to Tasmania, New Zealand, the Ladrone Islands, and the Philippines in the years 1771-72*. It will be published very shortly by Truslove and Shirley, 143, Oxford Street, and contain a preface by Mr. Jas. R. Boosé, Librarian of the Royal Colonial Institute. The book will be uniform with Mr. Roth's *Aborigines of Tasmania*, and the edition will be limited to 500 copies.

Mr. Passmore Edwards is going to add to the number of his benefactions to the metropolis by building a free library, reading-room, and gymnasium between South Kensington and Chelsea. The site has not yet been settled, but as soon as it has been secured the erection of the institution will be proceeded with.

Bumours of Cataloguing.

These flowers are culled from the catalogue of a public library :—

Aristophanes : The clouds of the Greek Text.
Boys' Own Annual : Magazine of Gymnastics.
Swedenborg : Conjugal love and its opposite.
Tiziano (Titian), Vicelli Da Cadore. Heath [G. A.]

This from a bookseller's Catalogue :—

Bible—2 vols, 12mo, *Edin.*, 1811.

"Sir Brunet and Dibdin in praise of this beautiful edition. As most nearly approaching unimaculateness a better copy than the present one could not be found."



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Practical Librarianship.

SUBJECT LISTS.

It is proposed to publish from time to time select lists of books on important subjects, similar in style to the one on Music given in this number. We trust they will prove of service to librarians, but more especially to those engaged in the formation of new libraries. The paper recently read by Mr. Ogle, of Bootle, on works dealing with Biological Science will form the second of the series, and the editor will be glad to hear from librarians who have made a special study of any subject, with a view to arranging for other lists on a similar plan.

* * *

SPECIFICATION FOR A LIBRARY BUILDING.

Mr. Ballinger has kindly supplied us with a copy of the Instructions to Architect for preparing plans of the new Public Library at Cardiff.

Newspaper Room for daily and weekly publications, to cover about 600 superficial square yards. This to include ladies' table or tables.

Reference Library and Reading Room.—To provide book storage for 30,000 volumes immediately (present number of volumes, 13,324), with reserve for 70,000 volumes, calculating 54 volumes to the square yard, and bookcases not to exceed 8 ft. in height. The magazines to be kept on tables in Reference Library, with separate table for ladies.

Lending Library.—To provide a Borrowers' Hall to hold easily 100 persons, with counter to accommodate an indicator 60 ft. long, and 24 ft. in addition for borrowers. Accommodation for 30,000 volumes immediately (present number of volumes, 17,245) to be provided in alcoves behind the counter, with reserve for further 20,000 volumes. In calculating the space required, 90 volumes to be allowed per square yard in Lending Library, and the bookcases to be 8 ft. high.

Strong Room for Records, Manuscripts, &c., near to Librarian's office.

Librarian's Room and Committee Room, with accommodation for a committee of 25, and provision for Works of Reference used by librarian (say 30 ft. by 20 ft.).

Basement.—*Fireproof Room for Bound Files* to communicate easily with Reference Library, and providing for 500 volumes, counting 16 volumes to the square yard.

Storage Room for Unbound Files, 34 ft. by 34 ft.

Mess Room for Assistants, 14 ft. by 14 ft.

Binding and Repairing Room, 20 ft. by 14 ft.

Patents, Storage, and Consulting Room.—A well-lighted room in the basement might be allotted to this—storage for 10,000 volumes at 40 volumes per square yard, and space for 12 readers and an attendant.

* * *

A BROADSHEET CATALOGUE.

Mr. Folkard, librarian of the Wigan Public Library, has conceived and carried out an excellent plan for bringing his wares under the very noses, so to speak, of the working men of Wigan. He has prepared a list of "Books on Engineering Machinery and Mechanics," containing about

300 titles, and printed it in the form of a broadsheet. Copies of this are distributed to the workshops and factories of the town and district, and posted up where the men can readily refer to them.

* * *

A NEW BOOK SUPPORT.

Mr. Arthur H. G. Davis, 6 Stonefield Street, St. George's Terrace, Islington, has invented a most ingenious book support. Without an illustration it is difficult to describe, but it is practically a small screw-jack which can be placed between shelves, and by a turn or two is made to jam between the upper and lower, and so form a rigid support for a row of books. Half a turn is sufficient to release it. In experimenting with it we discovered another use for it which will commend it to libraries fitted with movable shelves, and where perhaps as a book support it is not required. We found that by its help a shelf loaded with books could be easily and steadily raised and held, leaving the hands free to shift the pegs up or down as might be required, and then a few turns would bring the shelf down to its new position.

Subject Lists.

I.—MUSIC.

IN preparing a list of books on a subject which it is intended shall be represented in a Library, a difficulty is frequently experienced in deciding what to select. It usually happens that the available bibliography of the subject is either so full as to make choice perplexing, or so meagre as to be almost worthless, and in neither case is any indication given as to which books are best, or most likely to meet the requirements of a general library. In such a case the librarian, who cannot be expected to possess special knowledge of every subject, is very apt to trust to chance in compiling a list of suitable books on a given subject. It has always seemed to the writer that the selection of books to represent subjects in a Library was only second in importance to the general formation of the Library itself, and that a series of subject lists should form one of the Librarian's most useful aids. This opinion is doubtless shared by many librarians, and though such a series of working bibliographies or select lists has often been regarded as one of the most pressing desiderata of the L.A.U.K., nothing has yet been done to meet the want. It is perhaps attributable in some measure to the want of such lists that so many subjects are inadequately represented in public library catalogues. In many libraries some of the most important subjects are so shabbily treated as to suggest the thought that they are represented at all only as the outcome of accidental gifts or purchases made in error. Music especially seems to be a subject entirely left to the chances of haphazard gifts and purchases. With very few exceptions this subject is left in most libraries to take care of itself, and any books which may be found catalogued are either part of a series or rudimentary works of no authority. This, we are quite willing to believe, results from the lack of a bibliography which shall discriminate as well as describe. Very few bibliographies discriminate between what is worthless and what is best on a subject, and no librarian will venture to select books from a mere descriptive bibliography unless he possesses special knowledge of the subject. It is for this reason that we have compiled this list of works on music, and from a desire to see inaugurated a series of similar working lists on every subject of importance. A mere bibliography is useless for the purpose of aiding a librarian in making the selection which will be most useful to

readers, and most likely to meet every demand made upon the library. What is wanted partakes more of the character of a select list of the best books on a subject, or, to put it in a way less offensive to the literature excluded, the books no public library should be without. Several attempts have been made to meet this want in a general way, and with these most librarians are no doubt familiar, but the very fact of such attempts being concerned with literature as a whole, makes them almost useless for the special purpose we have in view. It is very surprising that even as regards a librarian's tools or working books of reference, no attempt has been made to set forth in an easily accessible form what is most useful in the literature of library aids. Bibliographies of bibliographies exist, as everyone knows, but they lack the practical and discriminating character which fits them for every-day use. Many such reference works as we have indicated are absolutely unknown to a number of librarians and assistants, and it should be an early task of some member of the L.A.U.K. to follow up this list of works on music with a similar list of bibliographies, literary histories, library catalogues, works on binding, pseudonyms, anonyma, &c. The amount of ignorance at present existing, especially among juniors, regarding such sources of bibliographical inspiration and reference as Watt, Allibone, Halkett and Laing, Quéard, Brunet, Dewey, Cutter, Cushing, Thomas and Lowndes is rather depressing, considering the advanced stage practical librarianship has assumed in the self-congratulatory imaginations of all members of the L.A.U.K.

There are many subjects which call for attention in the matter of selection. Among these the different countries in the world are deserving of immediate notice. What are the best or most serviceable books to have on Egypt, France, or China? What is wheat and what is chaff in the subjects of Education, Art, and Chemistry? These are questions which any librarian could answer by reference to his catalogue if it were compiled from lists made by specialists in each of these departments. It is a matter of supreme indifference to a librarian who is practically ignorant of a subject, whether reputed authorities differ or not as to the authors who may or may not be included, provided he is furnished with a list of books which will serve as a good working basis. The chief consideration is for the librarians to know what they are providing for their readers, and that they are satisfied that the list from which their selection is made is compiled by one who knows more about the subject than themselves.

This list of works on Music has been compiled, less because Music is tacitly boycotted in public libraries, than that the writer possesses some little knowledge of the subject, and knows the books he recommends. It makes no pretension to either fulness or exactitude, but is simply a rough list of good books, some of which are authoritative and all instructive or valuable for reference. Many good German, French, and Italian works have been omitted, especially when the ground which they cover has been adequately taken up by English works. Books on the various orchestral instruments, excepting the violin, are also excluded, because as a rule they are special rather than general in interest; but lists of the more important treatises or tutors on the harp, flute, clarinet, violoncello, &c., &c., will be found in the appendix of Brown's *Dictionary of Musicians* mentioned below. No prices are given, as many of the books can only be got second-hand. Works marked with an asterisk are most suitable for small libraries, or those requiring a limited representation of books on the subject.

General Works.

[London is the place of publication in all cases where no imprint is mentioned.]

- *Grove (Sir G.), *edit.* Dictionary of music. 1879-89. 4v.
- Mendel-Reissmann, *Musikalisches conversations-lexikon*. Berlin, 1870-79, and supplement.
- Moore (J. W.), *Encyclopedia of music*. Boston. N.D.

Principles of Music.

- *Banister (H. C.), *Text-book of music*. Various editions.
- Calcott (J. W.), *Grammar of music*. Various editions.
- *Cummings (W. H.), *Rudiments of music*. (Music primer.)
- Currie (J.), *First musical grammar*. Edin. N.D.
- *Curwen (J.), *Primer of tonic sol-fa*. N.D.
- *Davenport (F. W.), *Elements of music*. N.D.
- *Troutbeck and Dale, *Music primer*. (Various editions.)

Dictionaries of Nomenclature.

- Hiles (J.), *Dictionary of terms*. 1871. [Brief.]
- *Stainer-Barrett, *Dictionary of terms*. 1874, 1880, &c.
- Niecks (F.), *Concise Dictionary*. [1884.]

Harmony, Composition, Form, Counterpoint.

- Curwen (J.), *How to observe, harmony*. N.D.
- *Goss (Sir J.), *Harmony*. (Various editions.)
- Macfarren (Sir G. A.), *Rudiments of harmony*. N.D.
- Ouseley (Sir F. A. G.), *Harmony*. Oxford. 1883.
- *Prout (E.), *Harmony*. 1890.
- *Richter (E. F. E.), *Harmony*. 1880.
- *Stainer (Sir J.), *Harmony*. [1877.] (Music primer.)
- *— *Composition*. N.D. (Music primer.)
- *Pauer (E.), *Musical forms*. [1878.] (Music primer.)
- *Prescott (O. L.), *Form, or design in music*. 1882.
- *Bridge (J. F.), *Counterpoint*. [1880.] (Music primer.)
- *Double counterpoint and canon*. [1881.] (Music primer.)
- Macfarren (Sir G. A.), *Counterpoint*. 1879.
- Ouseley (Sir F. A. G.), *Counterpoint, canon and fugue*. Oxford. 1884.

*Prout (E.), *Counterpoint*. 1890.

*Richter (E. F. E.), *Counterpoint*. 1874.

*Higgs (J.), *Fugue*. N.D. (Music primer.)

Singing.

- Curwen (J.), *Vocal music*. N.D.
- Ellis (A. J.), *Pronunciation for singers*. [1877.] (Music primer.)
- Lunn (C.), *Philosophy of voice*. (Various editions.)
- *Parker (Henry), *The Voice*. (Various editions.)
- *Hullah (J.), *Vocal music*. (Various editions.)
- *Randegger (A.), *Singing*. [1878.] (Music primer.)
- Semple (A.), *The Voice*. 1885.

[There are innumerable "methods," "studies," "solfege," or "exercises" for the voice, but these are not quite suitable for public libraries, being designed chiefly for private study. The works in this class by Bordogni, Concone, Garcia, Lamperti, Lablache and Nava are very excellent, and there are many old Italian and other vocal methods which have not actually been superseded by more modern works, though now forgotten by the present generation.]

Instrumentation, Organ, Pianoforte, Harmonium, Violin.

- Berlioz (H.), *Instrumentation*. N.D.
- *Prout, (E.), *Instrumentation*. [1876.] (Music primer.)
- *Archer (F.), *The Organ*. N.D.
- *Best (W. T.), *Organ playing*. N.D.
- *Dickson (W. E.), *Organ building*. 1881.
- Gladstone (F. E.), *Organ student's guide*. N.D.
- *Hopkins and Rimbault, *The Organ, its history, &c.* 1877.
- *Stainer (Sir J.), *The Organ*. [1877], &c. (Music primer.)
- [The works of André, Casson, Faulkner, Audley, Lewis, Schneider, and Warman on the Organ are also desirable, though less popular than those given.]
- Czerny (C.), *Pianoforte School*. N.D. 4v.
- Fillmore (J. C.), *Pianoforte music; its history, &c.* 1885.
- Hallé (Sir C.), *Pianoforte school*. N.D. (Selections.)
- *Pauer (E.), *The Pianoforte*. N.D. (Music primer.)
- *Plaidy (L.), *Pianoforte teacher's guide*. N.D.

- Plaidy (L.), Technical studies. N.D.
 *Prentice (T. R.), The Musician; for pianoforte students. 1883, &c.
 *Sloper (E. L.), Tutor for the pianoforte. N.D.
 *Taylor (F.), Pianoforte tutor. N.D.
 [Very elementary books for the pianoforte are Hamilton's and Hemy's Instruction books. The number of studies and other works is very large, but if a selection is thought desirable, the exercises of Clementi, Cramer, Hüntén, Moscheles, Thalberg, and Schmitt have much value.]
 Hall (C. K.), School for the harmonium. [1874.]
 *— The Harmonium. N.D. (Music primer.)
 *Clarke (W. H.), Method for reed organs. Boston. N.D.
 Merz (K.), Method for the reed organ, Cleveland. N.D.
 *Stainer (Sir J.), Tutor for the American organ. 1883.
 Allen (E. H.), Violin-making. 1885.
 *Hart (G.), The Violin, its famous makers, &c. 1875.
 *Loder (J. D.), Violin school. N.D.
 Sandys and Forster, History of the violin. 1864.
 *Singer (E.), Violin studies. N.D.
 *Spohr (L.), Violin school. N.D.
 *Tours (B.), The Violin. N.D. (Music primer.)

Historical Works.

- Burney (C.), General history of music. 1776-89. 4v.
 Hawkins (Sir J.), Science and practice of music. 1776. 5v. New ed. 1853.
 *Macfarren (Sir G. A.), Musical history. 1885.
 Naumann (J. G.), History of music. N.D. 2v. (Cassell)
 Rowbotham (J. F.), History of music. 1885-88. 3v.
 *Rockstro (W. S.), General history of music. 1886.
 *Ritter (F. L.), History of music. 1878 and 1880.
 North (R.), Memoirs of musick. 1846.
 *Parke (W. J.), Musical memoirs, 1784-1830. 1830. 2v.
 Clement (F.), Dictionnaire lyrique, ou histoire des operas. Paris, 1869, and supps.
 Hogarth (G.), Memoirs of the musical drama. 1838. 2v.

Biographical Works (general).

- Fétis-Pougin, Biographie universelle des musiciens. Paris, 1862. 8v. 1878-80. 2v.

- *Baptie (D.), Musical biography. 1883.
 *Brown (J. D.), Biographical dictionary of musicians, with bibliography. Paisley, 1886.

Barrett (W. A.), English glee and madrigal writers. 1887.

Collections, various.

- *Dibdin (H. E.), Standard psalm tune book. [1851.]
 Warren (J.), Psalm and hymn tunes. 1850-53. 4v.
 *Parr (H.), Church of England psalmody. 1880.
 Joule (B.), Collection of chants. (Various editions.)
 Husk (W. H.), Songs of the nativity. Christmas carols. [1866.]
 Chappell (W.), Popular music of the olden time. [1845-59.] 2v.
 *Wood (J. M.), ed. Songs of Scotland. Glasgow. [1884.]

[In the absence of a standard anthology of the British Isles, it will be needful to secure from time to time the collections of Bunting and Moore for Ireland, Jones, Parry, and *Richards for Wales, Kitchiner, Bishop and *Hatton for England, and Johnson, Thomson and Smith for Scotland. Some of the modern collections are fairly full, but there is nothing of a general character published. So with psalmody. There is no general collection of the music of the psalms which can be recommended. The number of denominational psalmodes and hymnals is very large, and in general should be avoided, unless they can be secured by gift. Of foreign national melodies there are very good collections issued by Messrs. Boosey, and there are several German publications which would be recommended if their interest were less confined to scholars.]

Miscellaneous.

- Helmholtz (H. L. F.), Sensations of tone as a physiological basis for the theory of music. 1885.
 *Hullah (J.), Music in the house. 1877.
 Avison (C.), Essay on musical expression. 1752.
 *Chorley (H. F.), National music of the world. 1880.
 Engel (C.), Study of national music. 1866.
 *— Literature of national music. 1879
 As regards practical music it should be attempted, if possible, to provide a supply of the best operas, oratorios and cantatas in short score. The catalogues

of Messrs. Novello, Cramer, Boosey, Chappell and others will give ample information. Full scores of some of the orchestral works of Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Haydn, Weber, Schubert, Wagner, Cherubini, and other great masters might also be provided, and the convenient editions of

Messrs. Litolfi, Schott, and Breitkopf and Härtel are recommended for the purpose. Biographies of eminent composers are not included here, as it was thought that they formed a section of the general subject of biography.

JAMES D. BROWN.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Gutenberg. Festrede zur Feier der 450 jähr. Erfindung der Buchdruckerkunst von Dr. Paul Johannes Rée. Nuremberg: 1890. 8vo. pp. 18.

Kurze Geschichte der Buchdruckereien im Herzogtume Braunschweig. Zur 450 jährigen Feier der Erfindung der Buchdruckerkunst mitgetheilt von Linus Irmisch. Braunschweig: 1890. 8vo. pp. 54.

Neither of these pamphlets can be said to greatly increase knowledge. After remarking what a wonderful invention printing was, &c., &c., Dr. Rée gives in a popular form the accepted facts of Gutenberg's life, and then proceeds to perorate. The abstention from legend is praiseworthy, but the lecture was hardly worth printing. The history of printing in the Duchy of Brunswick is not very much more interesting. The greater part of the pamphlet is occupied with an account of numerous firms still in existence, and no attempt is made to clear up the history of the earliest Brunswick printer, Hans Dorn. The earliest extant book from Dorn's press is a Low-German Gospels, dated 1506, and said to be "vp dath nyghe vullenbracht vnde ghedrucket," a statement which Herr Irmisch construes as pointing to the existence of a previous edition from the same press. As there is an allusion to a press in Brunswick in 1502 this may have been the case, but by themselves the words do not prove it. The remark "Das jüngste der noch vorhandenen von Dorn gedruckten Bücher trägt die Jahreszahl, 1622," gives us a choice (out-take the possibility of the worthy printer having lived to seven score years) between a misprint and a confusion of persons, neither of them very creditable to the author.

I Codici Bobbiesi nella Biblioteca Nazionale di Torino, indicati e descritti da Guiseppe Ottino. Torino: 1890. 8vo. pp. viii., 72.

When St. Columban was expelled from France, partly for his adherence to the Irish rule as to the celebration of Easter, partly for his bold rebuke of the vices of the Burgundian chiefs, he fled into Lombardy and founded a monastery at Bobbio in the Appenines, three miles from Pavia. The Saint was in his seventieth year when he arrived at Bobbio, and died three years later, in 615, but the monastery grew and flourished and in the Middle Ages its library was among the most famous in Italy. One catalogue of its contents in the 10th century and another made in 1461 have survived, and have recently been printed, but the collection itself has long since been scattered, the greater part going to the Vatican, other MSS. to the Ambrosian Library at Milan, and some seventy finding their way to the National Library of Turin. Of these last, Sig. Ottino has now published a satisfactory catalogue, in which

each MS. is adequately described, while a subject-index helps out the arrangement, which is according to press-marks. The Turin MSS. are mostly theological, but include a late MS. of *Vigil* and a very early one, a palimpsest of the 3rd century, of some fragments of the Orations of Cicero.

We have received from the firm of Speyer and Peters, of Berlin, the first two numbers of a series of "Lateinische Litteraturdenkmäler des xv. und xvi. Jahrhunderts. Herausgegeben von Max Herrmann und Siegfried Szamatólski." The series is to include works by Erasmus, Melancthon, Baptista Mantuanus, Campanella, Eobanus Hessus, Sir Thomas More, and others. Each volume will contain one or more photographic facsimiles, and will be prefaced by an introduction by a competent scholar. The volumes sent us contain the comedy of Gulielmus Gnapheus, entitled *Acolastus* (on the Prodigal Son), and the amusing squib *Eckius Dedolatus*. The series will not appeal to a large circle of readers, but it will enable anyone interested in the Latin literature of the Renaissance to obtain some of its chief productions at a very trifling cost.

Grundzüge der Bibliothekslehre, mit bibliographischen und erläuternden Anmerkungen. Neubearbeitung von Dr. Julius Petzholdts Katechismus der Bibliothekenlehre, von Dr. Arnim Gräsel. Mit Abbildungen und Schrifttafeln. Leipzig: J. J. Weber, 1890. 8vo. pp. xii. 424. Price 4m. 50pf.

Though it retains its place as one of "Weber's Illustrierte Katechismen," in the new edition of this book the form of a Catechism has very wisely been abandoned, and we have in its place a formal treatise on everything which relates to the management and use of Libraries, great and small. Dr. Gräsel begins by discussing the most appropriate forms of library buildings, and gives illustrations of most of the large German libraries and also of the Peabody Institute at Baltimore and the British Museum, whose "iron library," as he truly remarks, has given his central idea to the architect of nearly every great library since constructed. While wisely recognising that the special object of each library must dictate the special features of its architecture, Dr. Gräsel lays the utmost stress on the necessity of plenty of air and light, in the interest not only of librarians, but of the books themselves. As to librarians, a great deal is said. In successive paragraphs it is demonstrated that they must be (1) possessed with the love of order, (2) energetic, and (3) gifted with all the virtues summed up under the word *Humanität*. Moreover, a librarian who has not a naturally good memory must be reckoned "ein sehr beklagenswerter Mann," and a good German librarian may be expected to know Greek, Latin, French, English, and Italian. From the qualifications of librarians Dr. Gräsel proceeds to discuss the art of cataloguing, and gives specimen pages of rather elaborate catalogues of Authors, of Accessions, and of Subjects—the latter according to the arrangement on the shelves. He has something to say on the vexed question of size notation, on the comparative merits of different kinds of binding—in fact on almost every point in which librarians are interested. On all these matters he makes frequent quotations of the opinions of English and American librarians, and is fully abreast of the most recent developments of his subject. An excellent index gives additional value to a book of which a perhaps slightly abridged translation would be a valuable addition to English library literature.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

Written notes or authenticated newspaper cuttings are more welcome than whole newspapers.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be forwarded.

BARRY, NEAR CARDIFF.—A poll, in accordance with the Act of 1899, which abolishes the procedure by public meeting, has just been taken in the Local Board district of Barry and Cadoxton, the result being—For the adoption of the Libraries Acts 392; against, 87; majority, 305. The majority would have been much larger but for the fact that a number of ratepayers omitted to sign their voting papers. The district of Barry and Cadoxton is an entirely new one—six years ago the two parishes were merely geographical expressions; now, in consequence of the operations of the Barry Dock and Railway Company, a flourishing town has been created with a rateable value of about £120,000.

BIRKENHEAD.—The Committee of the Free Library have endeavoured to obtain the insertion of a clause in the new local improvement bill, empowering them to levy a rate exceeding the penny limit—an increase deemed necessary for the proper extension of the library system throughout the town. After a fight extending over three monthly Council meetings, they have been defeated and the clause struck out. A point that has been made much of is not without interest. It appears, at the statutory meeting of ratepayers to assent to the bill, the vote was antagonistic to the entire bill, and a poll was demanded, but between the public meeting and the polling the Council in Committee cancelled the library rating clause, and deposited the bill with Parliament, whilst the poll later declared in favour of the bill. It is contended that the bill the town was polled upon contained the library extra rating clause, which the bill before Parliament does not. This is more than a matter of casuistry; it taints the validity of the bill deposited entirely.

BRADFORD.—In December last the Bradford Town Council had before it the question of applying for parliamentary power to levy a rate of an additional penny in the pound for Library and Museum purposes. The matter was, however, referred back to Committee for further consideration, mainly with the object of ascertaining if the inhabitants were favourable to the scheme. Many letters have since appeared in the local papers, and they were all but unanimous in favour of the extra rate. The newspapers also cordially supported the scheme, and it thus became apparent that no opposition would be forthcoming. On Tuesday, February 10th, the question was again raised by the Chairman of Library Committee, and it was then decided by a majority of thirty-nine against three to apply for parliamentary power at the earliest opportunity.

CAMBRIDGE.—The Board of Guardians, with the consent of the Local Government Board, have transferred a piece of land on the Mill Road, at a nominal sum, for the purpose of building a new branch library in that populous district.

DARLINGTON.—Mr. R. Hill, chief assistant in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Library, has been appointed librarian to the Darlington Public Library.

ELGIN AND THE FREE LIBRARIES ACT.—A well-attended meeting of inhabitants of Elgin was held recently—Sheriff Rampini presiding—for the purpose of considering whether the Free Libraries Act should be adopted in the town. The Chairman and Mr. A. G. Allan addressed the meeting favourable to the adoption of the Act. Colonel Culbard moved and Dr. Mackay seconded a resolution recommending the adoption of the Act, which—along with another resolution, moved by Mr. Forsyth, builder, seconded by Councillor Yeadon, requesting the provost and magistrates to take procedure for determining whether the people were favourable to the movement—was unanimously carried.

INVERNESS.—The Inverness Free Library was re-opened on March 10th, after being closed for a year, on account of the impoverished state of the funds. It will be remembered that Mr. Carnegie recently gave £1,750 to enable the Committee to clear off the debt and reopen the institution.

LONDON: ALLAN LIBRARY.—The Allan Library, in City Road, was formally opened on March 4th by Dr. Moulton, President of the Wesleyan Conference. Before the actual inauguration, a meeting was held in the City Road Chapel, over which Mr. Alexander McArthur, M.P., presided, addresses being delivered by Dr. Rigg, Dr. Moulton, and Mr. H. J. Atkinson, M.P. The hon. librarian, the Rev. G. Kenyon, presented Dr. Moulton with a silver key, with which he subsequently unlocked the door of the new building. This he declared open, "with hearty gratitude to the munificent donor, and in memory of our great founder." An adjournment was made to the upper room of the library, followed by further congratulatory speeches. The new building has cost about £9,000. The intention of the donor of the books was that they should constitute the nucleus of a library for Wesleyan ministers on the lines of Dr. White's Library at Sion College, and that of Dr. Williams at University Hall. The assistant librarian is Mr. Thomas Hayes. A full report of the proceedings, with views of the interior of the library, is given in the *Methodist Recorder* of March 12th.

LONDON: BETHNAL GREEN.—A meeting of inhabitants of the Borough of Bethnal Green was held on March 9th at the Victoria Hall, Victoria Park, to consider the desirability of obtaining the plot of land known as the West Paddock, for the erection of new library premises. Towards the object a sum of £20,000 has been given, or offered, by Mr. Passmore Edwards, and there have been further contributions to the amount of £5,000. The chair was taken by the Rev. Septimus Hansard, M.A., the rector of Bethnal Green, who explained the various stages through which the question had passed until it reached its present form, in which the Charity Commissioners had struck out from the scheme relating to the Bethnal Green Free Library the clause which would have given them the West Paddock for its erection. In taking that course he wished to impress on the minds of all that the Commissioners had not taken up an attitude adverse to the residents; but it was fair to bear in mind that there was another side of the question, and that was the preservation of the Poor Lands. The Commissioners were probably unable under the circumstances to do anything else than what they had done, but if it was the desire of the residents, the Library Committee would still endeavour to bring about the reconsideration of the subject by them, with a view to a more satisfactory result. After some discussion a resolution was passed in support of the decision of the Charity Commissioners.

LONDON : CAMBERWELL.—A new library is about to be opened at temporary premises, 130 and 132, Lordship Lane, Dulwich. The Governors of Dulwich College have given a freehold site, and there is now an opportunity for some wealthy resident to give a suitable building. The temporary library will open with over 6,000 volumes. This is the fourth library started in the parish of Camberwell in a little over twelve months. The plans for the Central Lending and Reference Library in the Peckham Road have just been completed by the architect, Mr. R. P. Whellock. The various reading-rooms will shortly be opened for a few hours on Sundays.

LONDON : CHELSEA.—Signor Fontana, sculptor, has presented to this library the original models of the bas-reliefs he executed for the Mayer Free Library, Bebington, as well as a group entitled "Jephtha and his Daughter." The Commissioners also hope to secure the model of the bust of Carlyle by the late Sir Edgar Boehm, R.A.

LONDON : DULWICH.—The Camberwell Public Library Commissioners have decided to open a lending library, with news and magazine rooms, in the central part of Dulwich. Temporary premises have been taken at 130 and 132, Lordship Lane, and the library will be opened as soon as the necessary alterations and cataloguing of the books have been completed. Some 6,000 volumes will be purchased by the Commissioners, embracing a selection in all branches of literature; but it is hoped, writes Mr. Foskett, the librarian, that the number will be augmented by gifts.

LONDON : LAMBETH.—Mr. Henry Tate, of Norwood, has renewed his offer to give £15,000 for a Free Library for Brixton, provided the parishioners of Lambeth will vote that the rate shall be raised, if necessary, to the full legal limit of a penny in the pound. Mr. Noble also offers £10,000 for the purpose of building a free library in the densely populated neighbourhood that lies between Westminster and Blackfriars Bridges.

LONDON : ST. MARYLEBONE.—The ratepayers of the parish of Marylebone have again been polled with a view of ascertaining whether they are favourable to the adoption of the Public Free Libraries Act, the last poll having occurred three years ago (May, 1888). The voting papers were issued on March 4th, and were collected on March 7th, the counting subsequently taking place at the Courthouse, Marylebone-lane, in the presence of Mr. W. H. Garbutt, vestry clerk, the returning officer, and the result was announced as follows:—Number voting in favour of the adoption of the Act, 3,621; against, 4,701—thus giving a majority against of 1,080. The figures at the poll in May, 1888, showed a majority against the adoption of the Act of 3,018. Subsequent to the preceding poll the Marylebone Free Libraries Association was formed, by which public libraries have been established in Lisson Grove and in Mortimer Street respectively, and supported by voluntary contributions. It was with a view of maintaining and extending these libraries that the vestry were requisitioned to take the poll just declared. The fact that the libraries have been used by over 300,000 persons was regarded as evidence of the changed feeling on the subject of the adoption of the Acts.

LONDON : WILLESDEN.—The poll on the question whether the Public Libraries Act should be adopted by the parish of Willesden was taken on Feb. 23rd, the result being as follows: For, 2,257; against, 1,070; majority in favour of libraries, 1,187. There are 6,000 electors on the register, over half of whom filled in their papers.

LOWESTOFT.—A poll of the ratepayers of Lowestoft on the question of the adoption of the Libraries Acts was taken on February 10th, with the following result :—For the Acts, 972 ; against, 955 ; majority in favour, 17. A crowded meeting was held in the Theatre Royal on March 3rd to protest against the method in which the voting was taken for the adoption of the Public Libraries Act. Mr. John Chambers presided, and he was supported by Messrs. E. Mummery, T. E. Thirtle, H. J. Eastaugh, N. H. Catchpole, Frank Stebbings, B. S. Bradbeer, Charles Tooke, and Alfred Capps, all of whom took part in the proceedings. A committee of twelve gentlemen was formed to consider the advisability of petitioning the Local Government Board to institute an inquiry into the polling. Mr. B. S. Bradbeer said at the Council that the resolution was carried by the casting vote of the Mayor, and Mr. T. E. Thirtle observed he had heard of Mayors "leading fools behind them," a sally which was greeted with rounds of applause. Mr. Frank Stebbings said Mr. John Morley declared on a recent occasion that *80 per cent. of books read at the free libraries were of a licentious, lewd, and low character!!!* (See "Jottings.") A great deal of the betting in the country was done in free library reading-rooms. Mr. Alfred Capps declared that they could not bear another penny addition to the rates, and as for the trees recently planted against the wish of the town, he counselled his fellow-working men to pull them up ! The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

MANCHESTER.—The trustees and directors of the Longsight Mechanics' Institute have transferred to the Manchester Corporation, without payment of any consideration money, the Mechanics' Institute and the whole of its belongings for transformation into a free lending library, reading room, and public building for the benefit of the inhabitants of the district generally. The institute is at present liable to a mortgage debt of £450, bearing interest at 4 per cent. per annum, and annual chief rents amounting to £14 5s., but against these amounts there is a sum of £143 standing to the credit of the directors at their bankers, which is also included in the offer. The proposal came before the Public Free Libraries Committee, and was cordially accepted, the Town Clerk being instructed to couple with the acceptance an expression of the Committee's "warmest thanks and their sincere appreciation of the most generous gift for the benefit of the inhabitants." Longsight is one of the local board districts which have recently been incorporated in the city of Manchester. Another of these districts is Newton Heath, where the Libraries Acts were adopted in 1887. The library there has not yet been opened, but the building is approaching completion, and will be ready for occupation, as a branch of the Manchester Free Libraries, in a few months. It is hoped that a third new library will before long be opened at Openshaw, also one of the added districts.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME.—The Free Library Committee have appointed Miss Peacock, of Trentham, as librarian.

PETERBOROUGH.—The result of a poll of the citizens of Peterborough on the proposal to adopt the Free Libraries Acts was announced on March 10th, the proposal being carried by two to one. The voting was—For, 2,258 ; against, 1,131. The unsigned and spoiled papers numbered 589. Seven years ago the citizens refused to adopt the Acts.

SALE, NEAR MANCHESTER.—The opening of the public free library and reading-room at Sale, erected by public subscription, took place on Saturday afternoon, March 14th. Among those present were Alderman

W. H. Bailey, Messrs. George Milner, George Rooke, A. K. Dyson, C.C., E. W. Joynson, F. Gordon Symons, Harry Thornber, and Councillor J. Tatton. The building, which has cost £1,800, including the interior fittings, is spacious and well lighted. It contains a commodious library, a comfortable reading room, and a large room for public meetings. The books at present available for the use of the public number 2,000, but in the building there is ample accommodation for 15,000 volumes. Mr. E. W. Joynson, the chairman of the subscription committee, who presided at the opening ceremony, gave a short history of the free library movement in Sale, from the time when Mr. John Brooks left a sum of £100 to be devoted to the best interests of the poorer inhabitants in Sale, until the adoption of the Free Libraries Act by a practically unanimous vote.

Mrs. James Worthington, on behalf of the subscribers, handed the title deeds of the building to Mr. H. Thornber, the chairman of the Libraries Committee of the local board. Alderman W. H. Bailey afterwards addressed the company:—

He said to praise free libraries was to praise health and strength and beauty, indeed, to praise a library was to praise the abundance of the earth, the sunlight of heaven, the wisdom of man, and the goodness of Almighty God. He was surprised to see that a man like Herbert Spencer, a man of literary eminence and power, should have written, on the plea of liberty, against free libraries. In a book which he had introduced Mr. Spencer said "we must keep alive the spirit of self-respect and personal independence in the breast of capable citizens." But was it the way to foster that spirit by keeping the people ignorant? In his opinion that was the worst possible way of making our country strong. A scholar is of more value than a pauper; a library is cheaper than a workhouse; a school is more economical than a gaol, and it seems a melancholy task and rather late in the day to be compelled to bring arguments to shew the wisdom of this reasoning. As a commercial people apart from any moral question we must admit that in any system of national book-keeping, in keeping a ledger account of the people and of public economy and as a mere act of self-defence, it is the palpable duty of "capable citizens" to prevent the incapable doing an injury to society. One of the ways to do this is penal, as Mr. Gladstone recently said, but the best method is to increase mental capacity by the establishment of free libraries and schools; and again, this cannot be said to be pandering to the working classes, for a free library is for the benefit of all, at their own cost.

If ratepayers say we will have a library and we are prepared to pay the cost, it is the highest form of democratic government, and he ventured to say one of the purest forms of Christian socialism; for it is a combination of all chiefly for the benefit of the weak and ignorant.

The art of thinking is making progress, and in proportion to the means taken to accelerate this art, so those monuments of woe in our large towns—the workhouses and gaols—will diminish in size. He felt as much reverence in entering a library as when entering a church or chapel. He looked with delight at this form of socialism, which among others is doing so much good, especially in the working class districts of this country. We dare not leave the ignorant to their own devices, whatever Mr. Herbert Spencer may say to the contrary. It is illogical, and what is worse, it is immoral; for a man who knows, and a man who has the power to assist his neighbour and neglects to do it, is guilty of a crime against society.

The academical reformers ought to come and live among the working classes before they begin to speak about their needs and requirements. These literary butterflies like Mr. Herbert Spencer and others reminded him of Rudyard Kipling's lines—

"The toad under the harrow knows
Exactly where each tooth point goes,
And the butterfly upon the road
Preaches contentment to that toad."

In conclusion, he had some difficulty in understanding why he was invited, but it might be that he had a very great respect for many friends in Sale who had con-

tributed to the success of this splendid institution. His friends, Mr. Thornber or Mr. Grimshaw, were known to be lovers of books and lovers of men who loved books. It was a great honour to be permitted to attend the ceremony, and with great sincerity he ventured to prophesy that blessings would attend the Sale free library, and that there was no doubt that it would have the wholesome influence upon the district, that all those noble and wise efforts to ameliorate the condition of mankind were destined to have, and which all who believed in the regeneration of man had faith in. The more institutions we had like free libraries the more would life be worth living.

MR. GEORGE MILNER said some people were always saying that it was life and not books which must train the mind, whilst others held an opposite opinion—that we were not taught by life but by books. The best plan was to admit at once that both books and life were great factors in education. He was perfectly willing to admit that a man could not be properly educated by books only, but neither could he be adequately educated by life. Sometimes we met with people who did not seem to learn anything from books, but, of course, there were fools in the world. Such people would not get much good from the experience of life. The fact was that books, if good books, were nothing more than the essence of man's experience, mental, spiritual, and practical; and if we want to know what life is, we must look for it in books as well as in life itself. As a means of making that library of the greatest use to the inhabitants he would suggest that from time to time systematic courses of lectures should be delivered by volunteers, not upon books in general, but upon the books in the library. In that way they would be able to direct the reading of those who would use the institution. Then the library would at once become a living and potent force. He thought there should be no difficulty in a place like Sale in finding men ready and willing to do the work. Then, again, small and inexpensive catalogues of the books should be issued. Accompanying each catalogue might be some directions to those who were likely to use the books. By adopting these plans he thought they would make the library a really educating centre from which light and education might proceed. After that had been done there was still something more needed, and that was to awaken in the minds of the young and of the comparatively uneducated something like an enthusiasm for learning. Without that all their efforts were of little use. He sometimes feared that, with all our increased educational facilities, there was not nowadays the same noble enthusiasm for learning for learning's sake as there was some time ago. His mind went back to the days when he was a boy, and when he knew intimately poor lads who were struggling for light and learning with an enthusiasm he seldom saw now. He called to mind an instance of a poor boy whose widowed mother worked in a mill, and who gave him for his dinner a penny to buy bread and a halfpenny for milk. That lad contented himself with the bread, and spent the halfpenny which should have gone in milk in the purchase of books. More of that feeling was wanted nowadays, and he hoped by the means he had suggested those responsible for that institution would be able to do something towards arousing such an enthusiasm. He congratulated the subscribers upon the success of their experiment.

TAMWORTH.—At a recent meeting of the Free Library Committee it was resolved to apply for the "remains of Rawlett's Library," now in the Grammar School, to form portion of a Town Reference Library.

Library Association Record.

THE last monthly meeting of the Association was held, by invitation of the Library Committee, at the Richmond Public Library, on Friday, March 6th, at 8 p.m. In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor (Sir J. Whittaker Ellis, Bart., M.P.) and of Mr. Trevor, the Chairman of the Committee, who both wrote apologising for non-attendance, Mr. Councillor G. W. Duncan presided, and the following visitors were present:—The Revs. Astley Cooper and R. Laurence; Aldermen Gascoyne and Robinson; Councillors Kidd and Wakefield; Messrs. F. J.

Brewer, A. H. Bullen, H. M. Cundall, C. Davis, J. G. Hiscoke, W. J. Hiscoke, J. R. Jackson, E. King, E. H. Oldfield, W. G. Peirce, G. Pycroft, and Major James Walter.

The Minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed, Sir Herbert Maxwell, M.P., was elected a member of the Association. Mr. F. Pacy (Librarian) read a paper entitled "Some Notes on the Richmond Library." Having given a concise account of the adoption of the Acts and of the establishment and subsequent working of the Library, he dealt entirely with the collection of local books, &c., and the literary associations of Richmond. Taking the subject of local authors, first was mentioned Sir William Temple, at West Sheen, where also lived Dean Swift serving Temple as private secretary. At Richmond Swift met his Stella, whose baptism is recorded in the Registers of the Parish Church. James Thomson, in Kew Foot Lane, and George Eliot, at 8, Parkshot, were noticed, as well as Edward Jesse, the naturalist, who was keeper of His Majesty's parks and palaces, and resided at one time at Bog Lodge, Richmond Park, and at another in "a rustic cottage on the west side of the road leading from Mortlake to East Sheen and Richmond." References were made to Robert Dudley, son of the Earl of Leicester, born at Richmond in 1575; the poet Gay with his patrons the Queensberrys, and for a time with Pope at Twickenham; Horace Walpole and his acquaintance with the Misses Berry; to Heidegger the Master of the Revels to George I. and George II., who lived on the Green, and was buried in the Parish Churchyard; and to Mrs. Barbara Hofland and her work on Richmond and its surrounding scenery. The collection, now in the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge, was first housed in his mansion on Richmond Green, by Viscount Fitzwilliam, who died here and was buried in a vault containing the remains of his relative Sir Matthew Decker. Reaching that part of the local library containing books, pamphlets, and prints illustrative of the history and topography of Richmond, the lecturer had much to say of interest, dwelling at special length upon an account of the Library of Henry VII. in Richmond Palace. A description of Queen Caroline's Hermitage and Grotto followed, with an account of the library and busts contained therein, and a brief outline of the career of the Rev. Stephen Duck, who had been raised by the Queen from the humble position of a thatcher to be her librarian. A subject occupying attention was the History of the Drama in Richmond, from the time when Shakespeare acted in his own plays before Elizabeth and her Court, to the pulling down in 1884 of the old King's Theatre on the Green. Turning from stage to pulpit—the Library possesses a number of sermons, preached in the Parish Church between the years 1696 and 1807. Many of them are by Nicholas Brady, D.D., the versifier of the Psalms, who was Minister of Richmond, and whose school here was mentioned in terms of praise by Steele in the *Spectator*. In this part of the paper some information was given about Gilbert and Thomas Wakefield, to whose memory are erected tablets in the Church. Having drawn attention to the Richmond printed books, to a few miscellaneous broadsides and sheets dating from 1805, and to the local prints that had been collected, Mr. Pacy concluded by adding that besides those books which relate only to Richmond, it had been their aim to secure anything relating to the counties of Surrey and Middlesex or to the River Thames. The direct study of local history, was not, he said, the object of the Library Association, but his excuse for dwelling upon his subject at such length must be that it was one of their chief desires to make their libraries useful in aiding such study in others.

The Chairman having invited discussion, Mr. Tedder proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Pacy for his most interesting, he would almost say encyclo-

pedic, paper. He had gained from it a vast fund of information, which to him, though an old Richmond man, was, much of it, entirely new. But there was another reason why librarians should speak on that occasion. It was to Richmond that London really owed the great and increasing number of free libraries it now had. A few years ago the only one in London was at Westminster. But after the adoption of the Acts in Richmond the movement crept on—first in the immediate vicinity, and then around London, until at last the people in London began to hear something of what was going on outside, and libraries seemed to spring up like mushrooms. It was very largely to Richmond and its inhabitants that they owed the great accession of libraries in London. He thought it was very much to Mr. King that they owed the initiation of libraries throughout London, and also the inhabitants of Richmond who supported him. Mr. C. T. Davis seconded the vote of thanks. In doing so he expressed the great pleasure with which he had listened to Mr. Pacy's paper. He was sure all would agree with him that it was most interesting. He was very glad to see that the local libraries were trying to get together books and pamphlets connected with the towns in which they were situated. The Chairman then put the motion, and it was unanimously carried. Mr. Pacy, in a few words, thanked the meeting for the patient attention with which they had listened to him. He was afraid he had inflicted upon them a disquisition of far greater length than was usually given to their lectures. If it had given them any pleasure to listen to it, it had afforded him great pleasure to write and give it. Mr. MacAlister then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Library Committee for their hospitality in receiving them there that night. Mr. Humphery seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. The Chairman said he was extremely sorry that Mr. Trevor was not there that night. He had been chairman of the Richmond Library Committee from its commencement, and had taken the very greatest interest in the management of the Library. Their thanks were due to the members of the Library Association for having come there that night, and thus having been the means of eliciting from Mr. Pacy a most interesting and instructive paper on local history. As Mr. Tedder had said, they were very proud of having been in the van of the movement. But although proud they were also poor. It was only by means of a voluntary rate that they were able to get on at all, and he was sorry to say that this only produced one-fifth of the amount of the compulsory rate. The difficulties of Italy in balancing the national exchequer were not so great as the difficulties they experienced. Without the voluntary rate he did not know what they should do. They had elected that night as one of them a member of the Legislature. He did not know if they had any more. If so, and they could get them to take up the question of the Public Libraries Acts, and in the first place to consolidate them, and then to get them to increase the rate to twopence, they would be conferring a great benefit on libraries in general, and on that in Richmond in particular.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

At a meeting of Council held on Monday, March 16th, at 20, Hanover Square, Mr. Robert Harrison, Librarian of the London Library, was, by a unanimous vote, elected President of the Association.

NEXT MEETING.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, April 13th, at 8 p.m. in the Clapham Public Library, by the kind invitation of the Commissioners. A paper, "On the Formation and Working of the Clapham Public Library" will be read by the librarian, Mr. J. Reed Welch.

The Council will meet at 7.30 the same evening.

N.B.—The Clapham Public Library is situated at 1, North Side, (corner of Orlando Road), Clapham Common, S.W. Nearest railway stations: Clapham Road and Wandsworth Road. 'Buses run to Clapham Common (within 5 minutes' walk of Library) from Gracechurch Street, and "trams" from Westminster and Blackfriars Bridges.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Hanover Square, W.—Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publishers, 6a, Paternoster Row, E.C.

A Few Words on Fifteenth Century Latin Bibles.¹

THE subject of Biblical Literature is one which must always form a theme of attraction to a considerable class. Nothing in connection with the history and literature of the Bible can fail to be of interest. In the bibliography of the first half century of the Latin Bible we find several features of interest. Not only was the Bible the first complete book printed with moveable types, but it generally proved to be the first effort of the early printers, and in many cases was one of the earliest works produced in the various towns. It is also the first book in the number of its editions, copies, and translations. Regarded entirely apart from its contents, and from a bibliographical aspect only, it is a book which stands alone.

To state simply the number of editions I have discovered would not convey much information to a large class, so I propose, in connection with the statement, to show to what extent these editions have been known generally to bibliographers, also to show what proportion of them are possessed by the British Museum, the Bodleian, the University Library, Cambridge, and the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, and have been, or are, in the possession of well-known collectors.

I have enumerated 144 editions during the first half century, but nineteen of those enumerated have sprung into being through errors in copying, the misprint, in some cases, of a date in a catalogue, or some such mode. The cataloguer inserts, by mistake, a wrong date, or the printer puts in one, and the careful bibliographer in after years comes across the entry, and forthwith cites the book as a newly-discovered edition. Curious and careful bibliographers, two and three, and so on, copy from the first careful bibliographer, the entry having received the sanction of his great name. In this way at least half-a-dozen editions, which probably never had any real exist-

¹ Read before the Library Association, Reading, September, 1890.

ence, have sprung into being, and are supposed to be preserved in various out-of-the-way quarters. I may cite as examples the so-called edition of 1465 in two vols., fol., printed at Embrica. This is cited by Le Long, on the authority of Mastricht, and it is quoted also by Masch III., 98, and by Osmont in his *Dictionnaire Typographique* I., 101. De Bure candidly admits he knows of no copy in France, and he might safely have extended his negative assertion. Again, the so-called edition of 1469, fol., supposed to have been printed at Reutling by John de Amerbach. The origin of this was a catalogue by Soubert, of the Library of Nuremberg. Masch gives this as his authority. De Bure simply mentions that there is a copy in the Library of Nuremberg, and various other bibliographers since have quoted the edition, as, for instance, Caille, Chevillier, Hallerwood, Maittaire, Osmont, and Weislinger. The so-called edition of 1478, fol., Argent. per Mart. Flacher, is cited by both Hain and Panzer. The former had never seen a copy, and the latter doubted its existence.

The editors of the *Bibliotheca Sacra* enumerate 109 editions in the first half century, including those that are doubtful, and 17 that are supposititious. Of these 109, 39 are omitted by Le Long, and of the 17 supposititious 11 are not referred to by him. Maittaire mentions 81 (including doubtful editions), and 6 which are spurious, making a total of 87. Panzer enumerates 104 editions (including doubtful editions), and 7 which are spurious, making a total of 111. Hain enumerates 105, including doubtful editions, and 3 which are spurious; 71 editions he had seen, and 37 he mentions on the authority of others. Eight of these last he doubts the existence of.

Of the public collections the Bodleian heads the list with 83 editions, the British Museum comes next with 73 editions, and the National collection in Paris, third, with 68 editions. There are 30 editions in the University Library, Cambridge, 21 editions in the Library of the University of Munich, and 25 in that of the University of Strasburg. There were 47 editions in the Caxton Celebration Exhibition.

As to private collections, Earl Spencer's Library is exceedingly rich in rare editions, he having 24 editions of the rarest before the year 1500.

Mr. Stevens says, in his introduction to the history of printing, illustrated by the printed Bible, prefixed to the collection of the Holy Scriptures in the Caxton Exhibition, "the famous collection of Bibles in the Royal Library of Stuttgart is said to exceed

7,000 editions, but by comparison of the catalogue of our present Caxton celebration collection, with the collection of Adler printed in 1787, the patient and curious reader will see that more than one half of our collection is not represented at Stuttgart."

I have the catalogue referred to, and if the "patient and curious reader" should refer to the title of the volume only, he would at once see that it is but a catalogue of that portion of the Bibles acquired from Lorch, a clergyman of Copenhagen, who in 1784 disposed of his collection of Bibles, containing 5,156 editions, to the King of Wurtemberg. But the Stuttgart Library was rich in Bibles before this acquisition, and shortly afterwards was rendered richer still by the purchase of Panzer's collection amounting to 1,645. Horne tells us that in 1814 the Stuttgart collection amounted to 9,000. The portion acquired from Lorch was by no means extensive as regards 15th century Latin Bibles—there were but 34 editions.

The Rev. Dr. Ginsburg's collection is more particularly rich in Hebrew and German Bibles; but I understand he has a fine collection of Latin Bibles. The Rev. William Makellar, of Edinburgh, has 22 editions. The British and Foreign Bible Society have five editions. I have myself 60 editions in the 15th century.

I do not wish to hurt the feelings of the booksellers, but it is remarkable how some consider the rarity of a volume depends on the fact of there being no copy of it in a particular collection. For instance, one reads in their catalogues, as an inducement to purchase, "Not in the great Sunderland Library." Now, of the 125 genuine editions of the Latin Bible before 1500, 13 only were in this library, and even the truly great collection of the Duke of Sussex could boast of but 61 editions. Fifty-one only were enumerated by Mr. Pettigrew in his *Bibliotheca Sussexiana*, but the Duke, subsequently to 1827, acquired ten more editions.

As to the places where the editions of the 15th century appeared, Venice heads the list. In this city 31 editions appeared between 1450 and 1500, the first edition appearing in 1475. Basle comes next with 21 editions, the first appearing about 1470; Nuremburg next with 16 editions, the first in 1475; Strasburg next with nine; Cologne and Lyons next with eight each; Paris with six, Mayence with three, and Spira and Ulm with two. No other place is known to have produced two editions during the above period.

Before the year 1475 all the editions were in folio. The first

quarto Latin Bible appeared this year, printed by John Peter de Ferratis at Placentia, and was also the first book printed in that town. The first Coburger edition appeared in 1475. There are five editions of the Latin Bibles in 1476, having printers' signatures. Mr. Stevens says four, but he omits in the reckoning the Vicentia edition. The first Bible with a distinct title-page was printed at Venice by Geo. de Ravabenis in 1487 in small quarto, and the first Bible with a plate on the title-page was printed at Venice in 1492 by Hieronimus de Paganinis. The first Bible in octavo, or the "Poor Man's Bible," is one of the earliest, if not *the* earliest from the press of Johann Froben, of Basle, in 1491.

The value of these early editions must be necessarily on the increase, if we consider the many circumstances operating to produce a rise.

First.—The formation in recent years of public libraries in all parts of the world, especially in this country and America, where there is always present the desire of possessing some early printed volume, if only as a specimen of the various presses; but in the case of the Bible an exceptional demand exists.

Second.—The formation of private collections.

Third.—The fact that though the demand thus increases, every year lessens the number of existing volumes—fire, neglect, and other destructive influences being at work.

I will give a few illustrations of the remarkable rise in the price of these early editions of the Latin Bible, as such may prove of interest. No doubt often the difference in the price realised at sales by the same edition of some of the earlier Bibles is owing to their respective conditions, and occasionally to the illuminator's talent, or the binder's reputation and skill, but this is not always the reason.

The Gutenberg Bible on vellum.—A copy sold at Gaignat's sale in 1769 for 2,100 francs, and passed to Count MacCarthy, at whose sale it sold for 6,260 francs. This copy is now in the British Museum, and worth at least £3,500, probably £4,000. Another copy, with two leaves in facsimile, sold in 1825 to Perkins for £504, and at his sale in 1873 sold to Lord Ashburnham for £3,400. A paper copy of this edition was bought by the Duke of Sussex for 160 guineas, and at his sale in 1844 sold for £190, whence it passed to Daly, Bishop of Cashel, at whose sale in 1854 it sold to Mr. Quaritch for £595. It then passed to Lord Crawford, and was bought again by Quaritch for £2,650.

So with Sir M. M. Sykes's copy. It sold in 1824 at his sale for £199, and passed to Perkins, at whose sale in 1873 it sold to Quaritch for £2,690.

Sir John Thorold's copy sold in 1884 to Quaritch for £3,900. Dibdin, in 1825, valued a copy at 150 guineas only.

A copy of the Mentelin Bible of 1460 sold at the Crevenna sale in 1790 for 115 francs, while Perkins had to pay £231 for his copy, which, however, sold at his sale for £75 only.

The edition of 1462, the first edition with a date, has gone up wonderfully in price. A copy on vellum, which originally belonged to Gaignat, sold in 1769 for 3,200 francs to the Duc de la Vallière. At his sale in 1783 it realised 4,086 francs, and passed into the hands of Count MacCarthy, at whose sale in 1817 it fetched 4,750 francs. It afterwards became the property of Mr. Watson Taylor, at whose sale it was sold to Mr. Dent for £215 15s., and at Dent's sale in 1827 it sold for £173 5s., and was acquired by Mr. Perkins, at whose sale in 1873 it was purchased by Quaritch for £780. It then passed into the hands of Lord Crawford, at whose sale in 1887 it was sold again to Quaritch for £1,025. The paper copies have also increased in value. The Pinelli copy in 1779 sold for £30, and Fournier, in 1809, valued a copy at £40, but Sir John Thorold's copy sold in 1884 for £1,000, and the Sunderland copy in 1881 for £1,600.

The second Eggestein edition sold in the Duke of Sussex's sale for £16 10s. only, and yet a copy was priced by Longman's, eighteen years before, at £73 10s., and the Perkins's copy realised only £49. The Mentelin edition of 1469, known as the "R" Bible, sold in Heber's sale in 1834 for £2 2s. only, and was priced by Nutt in 1837 at £6 16s. 6d. Mr. Quaritch purchased a copy recently at £60, and copies have sold as high as £100.

The second Cologne edition of Conrad de Homborch, usually ascribed to Ulric Zell (1470) sold in the Duke of Sussex's sale in 1844 for £5 15s. 6d., but a copy was priced recently by Ellis and White at £85. A copy of the Rodt and Richel edition of 1470-1 sold at the Sussex sale in 1844 for £4 4s., but a copy was priced by Mr. Quaritch in 1877 at £32.

The very same copy of the Schœffer edition of 1472, which had sold at the Duke of Roxburghe's sale in 1812 for £8 8s., sold in the Earl of Aylesford's sale in 1888 to Quaritch for £71, and was priced by him at £100.

The first Jenson edition of 1476, on vellum, sold at Paris's sale in 1791 for 1,440 francs, and was bought by the Duke of Devon-

shire for £168 at the Merly sale. The Sykes copy, which, in 1824 was sold for £71 8s., fetched in the Perkins sale in 1873 £290, and a copy in the Hamilton sale, 1882, sold for £330.

The first Naples edition of 1476 sold at Meerman's sale in 1824 for 50 florins, and the Sussex copy in 1844 for £5 10s., whereas the Sunderland copy sold in 1881 to Quaritch for £46, and was priced by him in 1884 at £65.

A copy of the second Jenson edition of 1479 sold at Dr. Askew's sale in 1775 for 1s. 6d.! It is now worth £10. The Hibbert vellum copy sold for £115 10s.

It is surprising how little is known respecting some of the earlier editions. I have had a volume of the rare Naples edition of 1476 sent to me by a bookseller in a large way of business as an early edition of about 1480 unidentified. It was the first volume, and I immediately recognised it by the signature *m* being by mistake doubled. It is supposed by some to be the first Latin Bible with printed signatures. So the first Fontibus ex Grecis Edition (of 1478) I acquired as an edition of about 1480.

Many are misled by the collations of some of our bibliographers who have examined imperfect copies, and even the usually accurate Hain in his collation of the edition of 1476 he attributes to Richel, has led many astray. I was fortunate enough to obtain my copy of this edition at a remarkably low figure, in consequence of its not containing the interpretations of the Hebrew names, which the copy Hain describes had. There can be no doubt the work is complete without this table, and later investigation has shown that the copy Hain described had bound up with it a table from another edition.

I have prepared a list in a tabular form of all the editions of the Latin Bible of the first half century, which I trust may prove useful to librarians. I have by letters indicated the principal bibliographers by whom the various editions are mentioned, and by numerals indicated when copies are in the British Museum, the Bodleian, the Cambridge University Library, and the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, Earl Spencer's Collection, and my own.

W. A. COPINGER.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

OF THE

PRINTED EDITIONS OF THE LATIN BIBLE DURING THE FIRST
HALF CENTURY.The following Abbreviations are used in the Reference Column and indicate the Bibliographer
by whom the editions are mentioned :—

R. indicates Brunet. D. indicates Denis. E. indicates Ebert. G. indicates Graesse.
H. " Hain. L. " Le Long. M. " Maittaire. m. " Maesch.
P. " Panzer. W. " Walch.

As to the Numerals :—1 indicates that a copy is in the British Museum.

2 " " " Bodleian.
3 " " " University Library, Cambridge.
4 " " " Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.
5 " " " Spencer Collection.
6 " " " Copinger Collection.

Date.	Place Printed.	Name of Printer.	Size	No. of Vols.	No. of Lines in a Column.	References and Remarks.
[1450-55]	Mogunt. .	[Gutenberg] ..	.. folio	2	42	B.D.E.G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 1245
[1460]	Bamberg. .	[Pfister] ..	.. folio	2	36	B.D.E.G.H.m.P. 145
[1460]	Argent. .	[Mentelin] ..	.. folio	2	49	B.D.E.G.H.*P.W. 12345
[1462]	Mogunt. .	[Fust & Schoyffer] ..	.. folio	2	48	B.E.G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 1245
[1466]	Argent. .	[Eggstein] ..	.. folio	2	41	B.D.E.G.H.*m.P. 123456
[1466]	Argent. .	[Eggstein] ..	.. folio	2	45	B.D.E.G.H.L.M.m.W. 12456
[1466]	Argent. .	[Eggstein] ..	.. folio	2	45	B.D.E.G.H.*m.P. 1246
[1469]	Colon. .	[C. de Homborch] ..	.. folio	2	46	B.D.E.G.H.L.m.P. 234
[1469]	Argent. .	[Mentelin] ..	.. folio	2	56	B.D.E.G.H.*m.P. 12345
[1470]	Colon. .	[C. de Homborch] ..	.. folio	2	42	B.D.E.G.H.m.P. 1245
[1470]	Basil. .	[Rodt] ..	.. folio	2	47	D.E.G.H.*M.m.P. 123
[1471]	Basil. .	[Rodt et Richel] ..	.. folio	2	50 & 48	B.D.E.G.H.*m.P. 12
[1471]	Romæ .	[Sweynheym et Pannartz] ..	.. folio	2	46	B.E.G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 1245
[1472]	Mogunt. .	[Schoyffer] ..	.. folio	2	48	B.E.G.H.*L.M.m.P. 1245
[1472]	Colon. .	[Gots] ..	.. folio	2	41	1st Vol. 36
[1473]	Basil. .	[Richel] ..	.. folio	1	48 & 49	B.D.E.G.H.*m.P. 124
[1473]	sine loco	[aut typogr.] ..	.. folio	2	41	doubtful L.M.m.P.
[1474]	Colon. .	[Gots] ..	.. folio	2	41	H.*24
[1475]	[Basil. .	[Richel] ..	.. folio	1	48	B.E.G.H.*m.P. 12346
[1475]	Placent. .	[J. P. de Ferratis] ..	.. 4to	1	60	B.E.G.H.L.M.m.P. 145
[1475]	sine loco	[aut typogr.] ..	.. folio	2	47	B.G.M.
[1475]	Nuremb. .	[Coberger] ..	.. folio	1	48	B.E.G.H.*L.M.m.P. 123456
[1475]	Nuremb. .	[Frisinger & Sensenschmit] ..	.. folio	2	60	B.D.E.G.H.*m.P. 1245
[1475]	Venet. .	[Hailbrun et N. de Frankfordia] ..	.. folio	1	51	B.E.H.*M.m.P. 1245
[1476]	Colon. .	[Gots] ..	.. folio	2	42	B.G.H.*245
[1476]	[Vicentie.]	[Leon. Basil.] ..	.. folio	2	50	B.E.G.H.m.m.P. 126
[1476]	Venet. .	[Hailbrun et N. de Frankfordia] ..	.. folio	2	51	B.E.G.H.L.M.m.P.W. 12456
[1476]	Venet. .	[Jenson] ..	.. folio	1	52	B.E.G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 123456
[1476]	Nuremb. .	[Sensenschmit or Richel] ..	.. folio	1	57	B.G.H.*M.m.P. 1246
[1476]	Paris. .	[Gering, Crantz & Fri- burger] ..	.. folio	2	48	B.E.G.H.L.M.m.P.W. 12345
[1476]	Neapol. .	[Moravus] ..	.. folio	2	52	B.E.G.H.L.M.m.P.W. 123456
[1477]	Nuremb. .	[Coberger] ..	.. folio	2	51	B.G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 12345
[1477]	Basil. .	[Richel] ..	.. folio	2	50 & 51	B.E.G.H.*L.M.m.P. 1246
[1478]	Venet. .	[Wild] ..	.. folio	1	53	H.L.M.m.P. 1246
[1478]	Venet. .	[Reynsburch] ..	.. folio	1	53	R.G.H.*L.M.m.P. 12346
[1478]	Nuremb. .	[Coberger] ..	.. folio	1	51	G.H.*L.m.P.W. 1256
[1478]	Nuremb. .	[Coberger] ..	.. folio	1	51	H.*m.P. 134
[1478]	sine loco	[aut typogr.] ..	.. folio	1	56	H.*m.P. 12356
[1479]	[Basil. .	[J. de Amerbach] ..	.. folio	1	47	D.E.G.H.*L.m.P. 12456
[1479]	Venet. .	[Jenson] ..	.. folio	1	51	B.E.G.H.*L.M.m.P. 124
[1479]	Nuremb. .	[Coberger] ..	.. folio	1	51	G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 123456
[1479]	Lugd. .	[Lothomi de Lothorin- geis] ..	.. folio	1	47	G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 2
[1479]	Colon. .	[C. de Homborch] ..	.. folio	1	58	B.D.G.H.*L.M.m.P. 12346
[1480]	Argent. .	[Rusch] ..	.. folio	4	73	D.G.H.*L.m.P. 12346
[1480]	Venet. .	[Scot] ..	.. 4to	1	52	H.*L.M.m.P. 1246

Date.	Place Printed.	Name of Printer.	Size	No. of Vols.	No. of Lines in a Column.	References and Remarks.
1480	Venet.	Hailbrun ..	4to	1	51	R.G.H.*L.M.m.P. 12346
1480	Ulm.	Zainer ..	folio	1	61	G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 124
1480	Nuremb.	Coberger ..	folio	1	51	G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 1256
1480	Florent.	sine typogr. ..	folio			doubtful D.H.fm.P.
1480	Colon.	[Gots] ..	folio	2	42	G.i.302, 236
1481	Venet.	[J. de Colonia et Jensen]	folio	4	65	E.G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 124
1481	Venet.	Wild ..	folio	1	58	G.H.L.M.m.P. 246
1481	[Basil.]	[J. de Amerbach]	folio	1	47	D.G.H.*L.M.m.P. 146
1481	Nuremb.	Coberger ..	folio	2	71	D.E.L.m.P.W.
1482	sine loco	aut typogr. ..	folio	1	47	D.H.*m. 2346
1482	[Lugd.]	Reinhard. et Phillip.	folio	1	53	G.H.L.M.m.P. 24
1482	Nuremb.	Coberger ..	folio	1	53	H.*L.M.m.P.W. 124
1482-3	Venet.	Hailbrun ..	folio	3	60&73	E.G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 246
1483	Venet.	Herbort ..	folio	2	58	G.H.*L.M.m.P. 1246
1483	Venet.	Hailbrun ..	4to	1	50	G.H.*L.M.m.P. 1246
1483	sine loco	aut typogr. ..	folio	1	45	H.*246
1483	sine loco	aut typogr. ..	folio	1		L.M.m.P.
1483	sine loco	aut typogr. ..	folio	1	49	6
1484	Venet.	Herbort ..	4to			H.*L.M.m.P.W. 1246
1484	Nuremb.	Coberger ..	folio	4	56	L.M.m.
1484	Ulm.	Zainer ..	folio	1	61	L.M.m.W. 4
1485	Venet.	[Paganini]	folio	4		M.m.
1485	Nuremb.	Coberger ..	folio	4	72&73	D.E.H.*m.P. 16
1485	sine loco	aut typogr. ..	folio	1	50	H.*L.M.m.P. 2
1486	sine loco	aut typogr. ..	folio	1	48	H.*L.M.m.P. 236
1486	[Basil.]	[J. de Amerbach]	folio	1	48	H.*m. 124
1486	[Basil.]	[J. de Amerbach]	folio	1	48	H.*m.P. 1236
1486	Venet.	sine typogr. ..	folio			m.
1487	Venet.	Rivabensis ..	4to	1	53	B.E.G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 1246
1487	Venet.	sine typogr. ..	folio	1		doubtful H.M.P.
1487	Basil.	Kesler ..	folio	1	56	H.*L.M.m.P. 126
1487	Nuremb.	Coberger ..	folio	4	72	E.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 1246
1487	sine loco	aut typogr. ..	folio	1		doubtful D.H.m.P.
1489	Basil.	Kesler ..	folio	1		doubtful D.H.fm.P.
1489	Lugd.	Grosshofer ..	folio	1		doubtful H.fm.P.
1489	Venet.	Scot ..	folio	1		doubtful L.M.m.
1489	Venet.	[Spirae] ..	folio	4	77	H.*M.m.P. 4
1489	sine loco	aut typogr. ..	folio	1	52	H.*m.P. 26
1489	[Argent.]	[Pryss] ..	folio	1	48	H.*m.P. 126
1490	Lugd.	Malietti ..	folio	1	48	D.H.L.M.m.P. 4
1490	Spirae	Drach] ..	folio	1	51	D.m. 2
1490	[Basil.]	sine typogr. ..	folio	1	56	Hain* 3047 26
1491	Basil.	Kesler ..	folio	1	56	D.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 126
1491	[Basil.]	sine typogr. ..	folio	1	56	H.*M.m.P. 126
1491	Basil.	Froben ..	8vo	1	56	G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 12346
1491	Venet.	Simon de Gara ..	folio			H.L.M.m.P.W.
1491	Venet.	[Geo. de Rivabensis]	4to			H.L.M.m.P.W.
1491	Savil.	Paul de Colonia, &c.	folio			doubtful D.m.P.
1492	Venet.	Paganini ..	folio	1		H.P. 4
1492	Venet.	Paganini ..	8vo	1	50	H.*12
1492	Venet.	sine typogr. ..	4to			H.P.
1492	Argent.	sine typogr. ..	folio	4	66	H.*L.M.m.P. 12346
1493	Nuremb.	Coberger ..	folio	4	71	H.*L.M.m.P.W. 1246
1494	Venet.	Hailbrun ..	4to	1		doubtful H.L.M.m.P.W.
1494	Venet.	Bevilaqua ..	4to	1	55	H.*L.M.m.P. 1246
1494	[Lugd.]	Hus ..	folio	1	50	H.L.M.m.P. 24
1494	[Lugd.]	Syber ..	folio	4	72&73	D.G.H.*m.P. 2
1495	Basil.	Froben ..	8vo	1	54	G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 1246
1495	Paris]	sine typogr. ..	8vo	1	58	1.
1495	Venet.	Paganini ..	folio	4	83	H.*L.M.m.P. 126
1496	Brixlie.	[J. et A. Britannicos]	4to	1	51&50	B.G.H.*L.M.m.P. 1246
1496	Venet.	sine typogr. ..	folio			doubtful M.P.
1496	Colon.	sine typogr. ..	folio			doubtful H.M.m.P.
1497	[Paris]	Fradin et Pivard ..	4to	1	61	H.L.M.m.P. 1246
1497	Venet.	Paganini ..	8vo	1	53	H.*L.M.m.P.W. 12346
1497	Argent.	[Reinhard. et Socio]	folio	1	54	D.H.*L.M.m.P. 126
1497	Nuremb.	Coberger ..	folio	4	71	H.*L.M.m.P.W. 1236
1498	Venet.	Bevilaqua ..	4to	1	51	G.H.*L.M.m.P.W. 12346
1498	Basil.		folio	4		P.
1498	Basil.	P. de Langendorff and Froben ..	folio	6	56&78	H.*L.M.m.P. 124
498-1502	Basil.	Froben ..	folio	6	56&78	L.M.m.P. 16
498-1502	Basil.	[J. de Amerbach]	folio	7	71	D.H.L.M.m.P. 1346

Date.	Place Printed.	Name of Printer.	Size	No. of Vols.	No. of Lines in a Column.	References and Remarks.
1499	Lugd.	.. sine typogr. ..	.. folio			m.
[1499]	Paris	.. Thiel. Kerver ..	.. 8vo			H.L.M.P.
1500	Paris	.. Pivard ..	.. folio	1	61	H.L.M.m.P. 2 5 6
1500	Paris	.. Vostre ..	.. folio	1		H.L.m.P.
1500	Lugd.	.. [Sacon] ..	.. 8vo	1		H.L.m.P.W.
1500	Nuremb.	.. Coberger ..	.. folio			L.M.m.
1500	Basil.	.. Froben ..	.. 8vo			H.L.M.m.P.

SUPPOSITITIOUS EDITIONS.

1457	sine loco	.. aut typogr. ..	.. folio			m.
1465	Embrice	.. sine typogr. ..	.. folio	2		L.m.
1466	Aug. Vindel.	Joan Bemler ..	.. folio			m.
1469	Reutlingæ	.. Job. de Amerbach ..	.. folio			L.M.m.
1470	Placent.	.. sine typogr. ..	.. 4to			m.
1471	Nuremb.	.. Coberger ..	.. folio			m.
1478	Argent.	.. Mart. Flacken ..	.. folio			H.†P.
1480	Colon.	.. Cum Lyra ..	.. folio	7		L.M.m.
1483	Nuremb.	.. Coberger ..	.. folio			H.†P.W.
1483	Romæ	.. Cum Lyra ..	.. folio	5		M.m.
1486	Basil.	.. Richel ..	.. folio	1		D.H.fm.P.
1487	Antv.	.. Kesler ..	.. folio	1		L.M.m.
1489	Colon.	.. C. de Homborch ..	.. folio	1		D.m.P.
1490	Basil.	.. Froben ..	.. 8vo	1		m.
1492	Argent.	.. sine typogr. ..	.. folio			D.m.P.
1492	Paris.	.. sine typogr. ..	.. folio			m.
1492	Colon.	.. Brinckmann ..	.. folio	1		m.P.
1496	Nuremb.	.. Coberger ..	.. folio	6		L.M.m.W.
[1499]	Lugd.	.. Claud. de Huschia ..	.. 8vo			L.M.m.P.



The Changes in the Permanent Exhibition of Books and Manuscripts at the British Museum.

Part II.—THE PRINTED BOOKS.

(Continued from p. 102.)

IN literary and artistic interest an exhibition of printed books cannot easily equal one of manuscripts. Every manuscript is in a certain sense unique ; its decoration comes straight from the hand of the artist ; its writer may be the author himself, or in any case seems to stand in a more immediate relation to him than any more mechanical craftsman. It is not too much to say that before the invention of printing all that was best in art was to be found in manuscripts, while the very difficulties of copying restricted literature to reasonable dimensions. Since the middle of the 15th century art has found a wider field, while literature has increased so enormously in bulk that its history cannot be adequately illustrated by any exhibition of specimen books. Thus it comes about that the show cases in the King's Library, while they throw much incidental light both on art and literature, are primarily and professedly concerned with the history of printing and the subsidiary arts of book-illustration and binding. In this exhibition the Block Books, brought from the Grenville Library, of course lead the way. No additions have been made to those formerly shown, and this is the case also with the Mentz books, which consist, as heretofore, of a copy of the 30-line Indulgence of 1455, the 42-line Bible, the first and second editions of the Mentz Psalter, and the 1471 edition of the *Constitutions* of Pope Clement V., which in virtue of its splendid condition is still preferred to the copies of 1460 and 1467, both of which the Museum possesses. In Case IV. the 36-line Bible still holds the place of honour, and the only addition is the first German Bible—that printed by Mentelin, at Strasburg not later than 1466. In Case V., devoted to books printed in the Low Countries, the Pontanus, which has hitherto been the sole example of the series of books which Dr. Hessels

would have us call the Costeriana, is now reinforced by a fragment of a *Doctrinale* by Alexander Gallus, which, as it comes from the waste of a binding, looks as old and venerable as Dr. Hessels could desire. Another addition is the *Opuscula quedam* of Dionysius Areopagita, printed by Colard Mansion about 1480. This, with the same printer's *Controversie de Noblesse*, is placed out of chronological order at the end of the case to indicate its connection with the editions of the *Recuyell* and the *Game and Pleye of the Chesse* placed with the Caxtons in Case VIII. In this English case three additions have been made: the unique Psalterium (1480-83?), one of the few books printed by Caxton in missal type (No. 3); the unique copy, recently acquired, of Caxton's edition of the letters which passed between Pope Sixtus IV. and Mocenigo, Doge of Venice, in 1482; and a fine copy of Wynkyn de Worde's *Dives and Pauper* (1496).

In the Italian case we note the appearance of Jenson's *Gemma Puellarum*, with the date 1461, in which Mr. Horatio Brown's book has recently revived people's interest; also the 1471 edition of Mesua, *De Medicinis Universalibus*, with the interesting preface concerning the work of Clemens of Padua, the first native Italian printer. In the next case the French books are reinforced by two Lyonese editions, the New Testament printed by B. Buyer, and the Terence of 1493, with the well-known woodcuts; also by a book printed at Rouen for Andrew Myllar, and bearing his device of a windmill.

In the cases we have been looking at hitherto alterations are comparatively few, but the contents of the next five cases show very large additions. In the first of these (Case IX.) are shown specimens of early printing in Hebrew, Arabic, Armenian and Coptic; examples of Russian printed in Glagolitic type, and of early books which first saw light in different parts of South America. Here too are Busby's *Treatise on the Culture of the Vine* (1825) and Grand's *Narrative of the Life of a Gentleman long resident in India* (1814), respectively the first books printed in Australia and at the Cape of Good Hope. In Case X. an attempt has been made to illustrate the history of the colophon and title page. Among the colophons shown is the one of Joannes de Spira, boasting of the size of his editions, and that in which Ulric Hahn, by a play on the two meanings of *Gallus*, assures the geese of the Capitol at Rome—descendants of those that saved it from the Gauls—that henceforth their feathers will not be

seized for pens. The title pages are led off by the earliest as yet known, that belonging to the *Sermo predicabilis in festo Presentacionis* printed by Arnold Therhoernen at Cologne in 1470; the earliest English title page, that of Machlinia's edition of *A passing gode lityll boke necessarye and behouefull agenst the Pestilens*; and the earliest illustrated title page, that of the *Calendarium* of Ratdolt and his partners, printed at Venice in 1476. The rest of the case is devoted to specimens of printers' devices, woodcuts, and woodcut borders, and contains most of the examples exhibited on the occasion of the last visit of the Library Association to the Museum in 1889.

Case XI. is devoted to an enlargement of the temporary exhibition of books illustrating the history of music, shown in the King's Library a year or two ago. Among the books shown are the first Musical Dictionary (printed in 1475 at Treviso) works by F. Gaforus, notably the *Theoricum Opus Musice*, printed at Naples in 1480, with a cut of blacksmiths beating out music on their anvil; Higden's *Polychronicon* (1495), which contains the first notes of music printed in England; the book of songs published by Wynkyn de Worde in 1530, and many other interesting works.

In Case XII. the visitor is recalled to a sense of his obligations to the great men of old and our fathers before us, by an invitation to gaze on the features of various great printers, bibliographers, librarians and benefactors, especially to the British Museum. The portrait shown of Gutenberg is an English print with the amazing inscription, "The first Inuenter of Printing, as you may Read at Larg in the liues of Plutarke." The heads of Caxton and Wynkyn de Worde, sketched in Indian ink by the younger Faithorne for Bagford the biblioclast, can unfortunately be identified with portraits of an Italian poet and Dutch divine. Among the benefactors to the Museum are likenesses of Sir Hans Sloane, Grenville, Banks, and Cracherode, while librarians are represented by the great Panizzi and Magliabecchi, and later bibliographers by Bradshaw and Blades.

In Case XIII., which is devoted to examples of sumptuous printing, we note that certain rather garish-looking survivals from the time of the Great Exhibition have disappeared, and room has thus been found for the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, and the scarcely less beautiful, though much less known, *Quatrivregio* of Federigo Frezzi.

In the cases devoted to books illustrated with engravings and

illuminations no changes of importance have been made, but the "Autographs" have been enriched by works containing the handwriting of Prince Arthur, Queen Elizabeth, Sir Hans Sloane and Coleridge. In two large cases now devoted to "curiosities" of various kinds, we find new specimens of Tudor proclamations, the earliest known advertisement of a forthcoming work (Peter Schoiffer's announcement of his edition of the Epistles of St. Jerome), an early bookseller's list (Anton Koberger's), the first books printed with catchwords, signatures and pagination, and other typographical and literary curiosities. In what may be called the basement of these cases are some works of too great bulk to be shown otherwise. Among these are some magnificent specimens of early music, Prior's *Poems on Various Occasions*, the largest and most remunerative of all volumes of miscellaneous verse (it weighs 10lbs. and brought the poet 4000 guineas), and an early example of the principle of "Put a penny in the slot" in a drawing of an automatic machine invented by the mathematician Hero (the elder) by which the pious worshipper at a temple could have his libation poured for him by placing in the machine the price of the wine.

In the four cases now assigned to Chinese and Japanese books and their illustrations, room has been found for a very beautiful and popular exhibition, including many specimens of printing in colours. Among the curiosities may be mentioned a 14th century Chinese banknote and a wood block carved in readiness for printing.

The next four cases contain a magnificent exhibition of some of the many rare and sumptuous bindings possessed by the Museum. Here very few changes have been made, and we must therefore pass on to the two new cases which contain specimens of books bound for English Kings and Queens from the days of Henry VIII. to those of George III. It is to be feared that a similar series of works bound for Kings of France and their mistresses would make a far finer show, but the books are none the less interesting as a record of English taste and workmanship. The first three books exhibited were all bound by Berthelet for Henry VIII. In the first and second, both dated 1534, many additions have been made to Berthelet's work which, as far as decoration is concerned, seems to have been confined to stamping the royal arms and initials in gold. The copy of Elyot's *Image of Governance* (1541) must therefore be reckoned the first instance of genuine gold tooling in England.

It is a good example of simple scroll work on white vellum, with the mottos *Dieu et Mon Droit* and *Rex in æternum vive* on the two covers. A book entitled *Meditationum ac precatationum Christianorum libellus* was bound for Queen Elizabeth in red velvet, and ornamented with most beautiful enamels at the corners and in the centre. It was printed at Lyons (1570), but English goldsmiths were famous for their fine work and the binding is therefore very probably English. The same cannot be said as regards the magnificent tooling on a large folio, *De Successionibus*, printed at Lyons in 1617, and bound for James I. The mistake by which the arms of Queen Elizabeth have been substituted for those of her successor could hardly have been made by an English binder, and the French origin of the binding is thus confirmed. The numerous examples of bindings executed for Henry Prince of Wales are all English work, but there is little joy to be won from them. After the Restoration, however, English taste improved, and the fine tooling of a Prayer Book of 1669 (despite the "Cottage"), and the embroidery of a Bible of 1674, leave little to be desired.



The Peril of the Bibliothèque Nationale in the Revolution.

THE crimes committed in the name of Liberty during the French Revolution were many; and furnish examples of each shade of difference between the sublime and the ridiculous. None, however, was more grotesque, or to book-lovers more horrible, than one which happily missed consummation, and is thus recorded in a pamphlet among the French Revolution tracts at the British Museum, entitled *Conversation familière entre un Homme de Lettres et un ancien Libraire, sur le projet de Supprimer les Armoiries, et autres marques de Propriété Féodale, empreintes sur la reliure de tous les livres de la Bibliothèque Nationale.*

To appreciate the converse of this worthy pair it must be borne in mind that the National Convention, in its reforming zeal, had decreed that all emblems of royalty should be removed from public property. Some fanatics, like our "Bookseller" thought the process incomplete while there lay in the Bibliothèque Nationale thousands of books, the property of the new-fledged Republic, bearing the royal arms and other feudal devices, abhorrent to all good citizens. So a commission of experts was directed to examine the question, and report whether the obnoxious impress might be removed without damage. At this the book-lovers were up in arms, and started endless objections; the process would cost four million francs (a somewhat excessive estimate for a quarter-of-a-million books); they would have to remove engravings of similar design from the body of the books, which our "Man of Letters" admits to be a *dégradation monstrueuse*; private individuals would have to imitate the action of the State, or have their treasures mutilated by fanatical patriots.

These fears were not so fanciful as it might be supposed, for already the wildest excesses had been brought on by the decree of the Convention. Under pretence of removing *fleurs-de-llys* or other symbols, some ruffians had destroyed great quantities of medals and engravings, or had driven the unhappy owners to do so under fear of being denounced as suspects. There were people simple enough, says our "Bookseller," to gum a piece of paper over the coat of arms of Monsieur the King's brother,

that figured on the title-page of Didot's edition of *Télémaque*: "enough to make one groan" says he. A soldier of the National Guard had been known to enter a bookseller's and run amuck through the emblazoned books, hacking them with his sabre; another bayoneted a number of such books that he espied at a public sale. These horrors elicited a second decree, which strictly forbade mutilation of all "monuments" under the pretext of removing feudal symbols. The "Bookseller," who ought to have known better, is rebuked by the "Man of Letters" for doubting whether books came under this head. "They are monuments, my friend," says the latter, "and much more lasting ones than those of brass or marble." The "Bookseller," however, though satisfied by this sententious piece of plagiarism that books come under the act, still breathes slaughter against the emblems of royalty; and proceeds to detail his plan for their destruction, which a too scrupulous Convention had put on the shelf. "At the request of Minister Paré, who is constantly occupied with all that may contribute to the glory and profit of the nation, I submitted a scheme in conjunction with MM. Petit and Bradel, for removing the hateful signs, at the cost of a million francs spread over five years. The process was to be this:—The portion of leather bearing the objectionable marks was to be cut out, and another gummed in its place, a gold line being impressed on the top so as to hide the join. On this new piece the Republican device might be placed. The 'stamp' of the library on the title-page was to be covered up with a piece of blank paper fastened with sealing-wax, and on this again the new loyal devices were to be printed. Forty or fifty work-people, under the charge of patriotic and efficient master-binders, were to be set to work in a shed near the Bibliothèque Nationale. Each day a register was to be made of the books entrusted to them, so as to prevent theft, or the substitution of inferior for the choice editions." One relaxation will our sturdy Vandal make, and it is the "Man of Letters," to give him his due, that suggests it. He will leave alone the arms of great collectors like Count Hoym or the Duc de la Vallière, since they form a sort of additional voucher for the excellence of an edition. The "Man of Letters" now blesses him altogether, and suggests that a report of their conversation would interest the public: and thus was their wickedness recorded for a warning to book-loving posterity.

JOHN MACFARLANE.

Additional Notes to Blades' "Bibliographical Miscellanies."

I. "SIGNATURES."

WITH No. 49 may be compared a set of books issued by Mentelin from 1473 to 1476, the *Specula* of Vincentius Bellovacensis, eight volumes in very large folio, not mentioned by Hain, but to be found in Panzer (vol. i. pp. 18, 19).

The following details are taken from a complete copy in the Library of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, bound in an almost contemporary binding, and finely illuminated:—

A. *Speculum Historiale*. Four vols. bound in two, 1473.

Vol. I. Both stamped and MS. signatures throughout. Those stamped are the same for every gathering, d j to d 5. On l j (MS.) the workman forgot to change his stamp and struck d 5 again.

MS. signatures in black ink go regularly, a—r¹⁰, though none are left before g 2.

Vol. II. The stamps in this volume are a j—a 5.

The MS. signatures run straight on s—x, aa—hh¹⁰: next is kk, then comes one 5^a not signed; then ll: the next left is qq on fo. 181; thus one of the intervening letters was omitted. There is no signature to the last gathering, a 3^a.

Vol. III. Stamps; b j to b 5.

The MS. signatures are in red ink and the number precedes the letter. The first left is j e on fo. 51: j f on fo. 61: 3n on fo. 123. After this they are more regular (a—v¹⁰ x¹³).

Vol. IV. Stamps; c j to c 5; but very few left.

MS.; the only signatures left (in red ink) are to the two first gatherings: jx, jy. (There are twenty 5^{ns} and two 4^{ns}).

It is noticeable that both stamps and signatures are in all cases close to the bottom corner, and do not vary as in Blades' No. 49.

B. *Speculum Morale*. One vol. 1476.

There are no stamped signatures to this volume, which has headlines. The MS. signatures are very fragmentary. fo. 29=c5. 36=d 2. 45e j. 10=4=l 2; and so at intervals to et j.=227, con j

=237, and a curious sign like the Greek ξ.(247sq.) After this no more are left. There are 472 leaves.

C. *Speculum Naturale*. No date. One vol. Unlike the previous volumes, which are in Semi-Roman type, this and the following are in Gothic type.

Stamped signatures only found on sigs. j f to 5h, as a j to a 5. But on 3q is written in black ink b 3, and also on 3 s. On jt is bj and on 2y is b 2, likewise written.

MS. signatures in red ink run regularly: a—b¹⁰, c⁸, d¹⁰, f—n¹⁰, o⁸, p—v¹⁰, x⁸, y—z¹⁰, 2. ξ (or 3?)¹⁰. After this they are in black ink: very few are left. [a—f¹⁰, g—h⁸, i—o¹⁰].

D. *Speculum Doctrinale*. Two vols. No date.

Vol. I. No signatures of any kind.

Vol. II. There are slight remains of MS. signatures in red ink, but 4b on fo. 22, and 3c on fo. 31 are alone left. On fo. 53 is d in black ink.

There are obscure traces of blurred stamps on ff. 207, 216, 223, 225, and 237.

Another book in the same library presents an even more interesting form of signature. This is the *Biblia cum glossa ordinaria*, in four volumes; Hain No. *3173, assigned by him to the Basel press c. 1480, but now usually assigned to Rusch at Strassburg. The book has both printed and MS. signatures: but while the printed signatures are close up to the text in the ordinary way, they are not gathering-signatures, but section-signatures, and very irregular, as is shewn by the following table:—

Vol. I.	Vol. II.	Vol. III.	Vol. IV.
ff. 1—10 a	ff. 1—8 a	ff. 2—71 b	ff. 1—8 a
11—82 b	9—130 c	72—181 g	9—16 d
83—138 d	131—154 b	182—219 d	17—40 a
139—146 a	155—160 c	220—231 e	41—151 f
147—216 d	161—194 h	232—247 a	152—175 b
217—252 b	195—228 c	248—299 c	176—273 a
	229—326 e		274—281 b
			282—289 c
			290—331 a

There are also MS. signatures in black ink, of which the majority are still left, at the extreme corner. These follow the usual course, beginning in each volume with a, and going on to aa for the second alphabet. The greater part of the book is in eights, but there are some sixes and tens. An eight is signed

either a1, a2, a3, a4, a5, or a1, a2, a3, a4, 5. In one or two instances there is also 6.

II. "CHAINED BOOKS."

Between pp 36—7 of Part 3 add:—MINEHEAD (Somerset). Parish Church of St. Michael.

The books, six in number, are on a desk fastened to the east side of the screen, at its north end. Nos. 5 and 6 (see below) are still attached, while the chain of No. 4 is still in its place. The chain is attached to a ring and plate fastened to the centre of the bottom edge of the front cover in each case; the links are about two inches in length; there is no swivel. The three chains pass through holes in the front board of the desk, and about two feet below are caught together. A single chain hangs thence for six inches, terminated by a curious padlock. As there are only three holes in the desk it is clear that the other three books were originally on another desk which has been demolished.

1. Holy Bible. All lost before sig. C 2 (Calendar, March), except a fragment of C 1. Wants two leaves at end. (*Title to N.T.*) London, Printed by Robert Barker and the Assignes of John Bill. 1639. F^o BL. No pagination.

2. The Workes of Thomas Adams . . . Collected and Published in one intire Volume. London: by John Harper for John Gris [. . . 1630. F^o pp. 1250.

The first few leaves are rubbed at the corners. Inscribed:—

This Book was given unto the Parish Church of Minehead by Mr. Alexander Ewens. Anno 1675. Bound by Go. Wood Bookseller of Dunster, Anno 1729-30. Price 11: Shil^s.

John Thomas } Church
Tho. Giles } Wardens.

3. Bp. Jewel's Sermons. Title lost (colophon). Printed by John Bill 1623. F^o pp. 324. BL.

4. (a) A Body of Divinity, or the Svmme and Svbsance of Christian Religion . . . by James Vsher B. of Armagh. Lond, by M.F. for Tho: Downes and Geo: Badger . . . 1640. F^o pp. 474.

(b) Immanuel: or the Mystery of the Incarnation . . . by James Vsher, Archbishop of Armagh. Lond. by Susan Islip for Thomas Downes and George Badger. 1649. F^o pp. 24. Inscribed as (2), but "Price 9 Shil^s."

5. [The Workes of the Very Learned and Reverend . . . Iohn Iewel . . . Newly set forth . . . London: by Iohn Norton 1609.]

Wants title. Last leaves much mutilated. F^o BL. Inscribed as No. (2).

6. Fourteen Sermons Heretofore Preached . . . by Robert Sanderson D.D. . . The Fourth Impression . . . London: by R. N. for Henry Seile. 1657. F^o pp. 488.

Inscribed: "John Giles his Book . . . 1714."

ROBERT G. C. PROCTOR.



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Bookbinding in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries.

Examples of the Bookbinders' Art of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, selected chiefly from the Royal Continental Libraries, with descriptions and an introduction by ALFRED WALLIS. One hundred copies only printed for subscribers. 1890. JAMES G. COMMINS, Exeter; W. W. GIBBINS, 18, Bury St., W.C.

DURING the nineteenth century the literature of bookbinding has passed through three successive stages of development. (1) The period of general treatises, technical and historic; represented by a chapter in the *Decameron* of Dibdin, *Bibliopægia, or the art of Book Binding in all its Branches* by Mr. John Hannett (*alias* Arnett), a veteran specialist, who is still living at Henley-in-Arden, near Stratford-upon-Avon. *Bibliopægia* first appeared in 1835, and in 1865 reached a sixth and last edition. About the same time, by the same author, was published *Books of the Ancients, with a History of the Art of Bookbinding*. (2) The period of essays upon art as applied to bookbinding, inaugurated by Mr. Joseph Cundall, who struck the new note in 1848 in *Ornamental Art applied to Ancient and Modern Bookbinding*, and completed his work in 1881 by publishing a large quarto illustrated work *On Bookbinding, Ancient and Modern*. Mr. Walter Crane, Mr. W. H. James-Weale, Mr. H. B. Wheatley and Mr. J. Cobden-Saunders are the more recent exponents of bookbinding in its ornamental aspect. (3) The period of descriptive and illustrated catalogues of the more important bookbindings in particular libraries. Here, probably, the courteous librarian of Lambeth Palace Library may claim to be the pioneer, but the first book specially devoted to the bindings in a great English library was suggested by Mr. Cundall, and written by Mr. H. B. Wheatley, appearing in 1889 under the title of *Remarkable Bindings in the British Museum*. Hitherto, we English have followed the lead of the French. In *L'Art de Relieur-doreur de Livres* (1772) Dibdin copied *L'Art de Relier les Livres* (Jaugeon), an unpublished MS. begun in 1693, and finished in 1704. It is the first technical work on binding known. In 1875 Alfred Franklin published the

second edition of *Précis de l'Histoire de la Bibliothèque du Roi, aujourd'hui Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris*, second edition, 1875, which seems to have suggested to Mr. Cundall the idea of a similar book on the treasures in the British Museum. The respective merits or demerits of these and similar books cannot be discussed here, and the books themselves are only mentioned in order that an exact place in the history of bibliography may be assigned to the work before us. It is an illustrated catalogue, very sumptuous, well printed, well bound, and beautifully illustrated, but still a catalogue, and unfortunately an incomplete one. In the preface we are told that the plates were specially prepared for circulation in Germany to a limited extent; that the descriptions have been re-written to suit English and American readers, and that the examples of bookbinding have been selected from some of the great German Libraries to which English students rarely have access. The introduction occupies thirteen pages, dealing chiefly with the causes of the decline in the art of bookbinding. This, Mr. Wallis thinks, in a great measure is due to the bookbinders themselves—an undoubted fact—but the causes that led to ignorance and incompetency among the members of the craft should not be lightly passed over.

We agree with the author in thinking that German bindings of the last three centuries are deserving of more attention than has yet been bestowed upon them, but we would commence a century or two earlier. Artistically speaking, German bookbindings of the 14th and 15th centuries are of greater value than those of the 17th and 18th. After the Reformation there was a marked declension in German, as in other European art. Mr. Wallis admits that the painted and gold-tooled patterns upon many of his examples are mere copies of Italian models, indeed, several plates are devoted to Italian bindings, having no apparent connection with German art.

The main portion of the book contains a collection of forty photogravures, excellent of their kind, and far more useful to students than rubbings. Although some of the examples are commonplace, and others, especially the later ones, poor, there are many of high artistic merit and of historic interest. Among the latter (plates viii. and xxx.) two bindings enriched with metal work finely engraved, bearing the arms and monogram of a Duke of Saxony, merit special attention. Several small bindings stamped with the arms of Denmark are graceful, in style

resembling the early work attributed to Nicholas Eve; plate xxxiv. is a beautiful specimen of Grolier binding. Plate xxxi. represents two pretty Italian bindings in the same style, dated 1546. Three or four examples of so-called Persian bindings exhibit unmistakable signs of Western influence; apart from their peculiar artistic merit they are interesting from the fact that a number of small Roman coins or medallions have been placed in the arabesque ornament. Numerous examples of blocked bindings, usually called "Medici enamels," but described by Mr. Wallis as "tooled," will attract people who are fond of the bright colouring and graceful scrolls of these charming little works. To Germany we owe great improvement in stamped bindings, perhaps also the invention of stamping in gold, but it is extremely difficult to assign with certainty a German origin to all the specimens given in this book. Unfortunately examples of early German stamped work are entirely omitted. There are three photographs of stamped bindings (plates xv., xxiv., and xxix.) all dating from the end of the 16th century, remarkable rather for grotesqueness than beauty, and possessing none of the artistic merits of the earlier German stamping. Plate vii. represents a very fine 15th century leather binding, commonly but erroneously called *cuir-bouilli*. It is hand-wrought leather, cut, punched, and modelled in a manner practised at Nuremberg and in other German cities. The true *cuir-bouilli*, boiled leather, sometimes was ornamented similarly—hence, perhaps, the mistake in the name. The description accompanying this plate is full of errors; the binding is not "stamped leather, blind-tooled," neither are the bosses and corner-pieces of engraved metal; doubtless the book once had metal bosses and corners, but though the marks of these can be seen in the photograph, the actual metal work remains no longer, except the clasps, and we think that the costume of the huntsman is as likely to be German as Italian. The design is thoroughly German.

There are certain sins of omission in the book not lightly to be condoned. There is no index. Many of the titles, dates of publication, and printers' names are omitted in the descriptions. The plates are placed apparently without arrangement. No measurements of the bindings are given. This is inconvenient, because most of the photographs are reduced, and it is almost impossible to guess the size of the original. Notwithstanding these faults the book will be found most useful to students, who

have not opportunity of visiting the libraries of Dresden, Gotha, Hamburg, Wolfenbüttel, and Weimar. Had Mr. Wallis selected the examples himself the result might have been more satisfactory. Most of the descriptions to the plates are remarkable rather for their brevity than for the information they contain. Where a more lengthy description has been attempted the author generally may be found tripping, but the errors are of such a nature as to be easily detected. The introduction being brightly written is pleasant to read, but it is popular rather than scientific.



The Free Public Library, Wandsworth.¹

THE Wandsworth Public Library is interesting, as being the second in the metropolitan district founded under the Public Libraries Acts 1855-87. The Westminster Public Library has had a much longer existence, the Acts having been adopted on 10th March, 1856.

Wandsworth is both a manufacturing and residential suburb of London. On the Wandle are breweries, large corn mills, dye works, match factories, besides other important trades, including the manufacture of paper. As librarians, we are interested in the finished product, and here are made about 150 miles per week of paper for the *Times*, being about a quarter of that used, besides all the paper on which is printed both editions of the *Illustrated London News*. As a residential suburb East Hill and West Hill are covered with houses, from the modest villa to the stately mansion. George Eliot once lived here, and not far from the library live Henty and "John Strange Winter" (Mrs. Stannard). These facts are mentioned to show that all classes are to be found in the thriving parish of Wandsworth.²

The idea of the establishment of a Free Library in Wandsworth originated with the Vestry Clerk, Mr. E. E. Greville, who thought that it might perhaps be accommodated under the same roof as the New Town Hall. Early in 1881 Mr. Greville made enquiries of the librarians of all the public libraries in the United Kingdom, and obtained a mass of valuable information. At the Vestry meeting on October 27th, 1881, at the suggestion of Mr. Greville, Dr. Hooper moved for a committee to enquire into the working of the Public Libraries Acts, and the desirability of adopting them for Wandsworth. This committee reported,

¹ Read at the March Meeting of the L.A.U.K., 1888.

² Area, 2,478 acres. Inhabited Houses, 4,255. Population in 1881, 28,004; now estimated at 46,000. Rateable value in 1887, £233,757. 1d. in £ produced about £752 in 1887-8.

March 30th, 1882, in favour of adopting the Acts, and that the Town Hall would suffice for the library at its commencement. This report was received and adopted by the Vestry, but no further action was taken. Mr. Greville, however, persevered and gradually formed a large and representative committee, which met at the Town Hall on June 12th, 1883, Dr. Hooper being in the chair. A sub-committee was then appointed, which took the requisite steps to obtain a poll of the ratepayers, and caused a circular, which Mr. Greville had drawn up, to be left at every house in the parish. A public meeting at the Town Hall was called for the 2nd of July, and a resolution in favour of the library was passed. The poll was taken July 3rd, 1883, when the numbers were declared to be:—

For	-	-	1550
Against	-	-	482

Majority for the library 1068

On the 9th of August, 1883, the Vestry appointed the following gentlemen as Commissioners:—Dr. G. D. Longstaff, Mr. John Bell, Dr. J. Harward Hooper, Messrs. W. R. Selwood, G. W. Barnard, W. J. Gilks, Hy. Ellis, Chas. Woodhams, and Jas. Sinclair. The Commissioners elected Dr. G. D. Longstaff as their chairman, while Mr. Greville kindly acted as interim secretary, and conducted all legal business.

In November, 1883, a concert was given at the Town Hall by Miss Lilian Greville, and the sum of £26 was handed over by her towards the library funds.

It was soon found that the Town Hall would not afford sufficient accommodation, and could only be enlarged at a heavy cost. At length the Commissioners decided that Putney Lodge, lately belonging to Mr. Herman Rücker, was the most convenient and by far the cheapest available site. It was accordingly purchased, June 6th, 1884, and subsequently, 13th August, 1885, a piece of land adjoining was also bought with a view to securing light and giving space for the additions, the ultimate need of which the success of the library has already proved. The alterations required in the building were carried out by Mr. Parsons, under the superintendence of Professor Roger Smith. The internal fittings were as far as possible made by workmen directly paid by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners engaged Mr. Alfred Cotgreave as librarian.

The reading rooms were thrown open on the 21st of March, 1885, giving all comers free access to some 320 newspapers and periodicals, of which no less than 218 were presented; separate rooms being set apart for ladies. The attendance was unexpectedly large. On several Saturdays the persons who entered the building were counted, and the numbers varied from 1,014 to 1,610. With these numbers the rooms were, of course, most inconveniently crowded. When first opened one room was set apart as a Recreation Room, in which chess, draughts, and backgammon might be played. It was, however, soon found that a few boys took possession of the room, and made themselves a nuisance by unruly behaviour and gambling. After imposing various restrictions, with little result, the Commissioners were reluctantly compelled to allow no games but chess, and to use the room as a supplementary reading room.

The selection and purchase of books next occupied the attention of the Commissioners, and in this part of their work they received considerable assistance from Dr. G. D. Longstaff, who devoted much time to the subject. Lists were prepared and sent to the leading second-hand booksellers, and by this means the majority of the books were bought on very advantageous terms. Besides liberal gifts of money, amounting to nearly £600, as many as 2,828 volumes were presented. Thus towards the end of the summer of 1885 the Commissioners found themselves in possession of between 6,000 and 7,000 volumes, and Mr. Cotgreave was instructed to prepare a catalogue. Subsequently he prepared a "Key to the Indicator" for the departments of fiction and juvenile literature.

On the 1st October, 1885, the Lending and Reference Libraries were opened by the Lord Mayor, who dined in the library, and afterwards addressed a meeting in the Town Hall. It was very soon evident that, as in the case of the reading rooms, the library was used beyond the most sanguine expectations of its promoters; and, indeed, so far as reports and statistics can prove the point, it would appear that in Wandsworth the Free Library movement has proved at least as great a success as in any other town—certainly a greater success than in many.

In October, 1886, Mr. A. Cotgreave resigned, and Mr. Cecil T. Davis, of the Reference Department of the Birmingham Free Library, was selected out of a very large number of candidates, as his successor.

In 1886 the Local Government Board required the payment

of £2,500 borrowed on security of the freehold, as well as the overdraft at the bank, and sanctioned the borrowing of £3,700 on security of the rates, and repayable in thirty years.

The year 1887 was an eventful one. The opening of the handsome reading room, the gift of the chairman, Dr. Longstaff, by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, on March 12th, was a notable event, not only in the history of the library, but in that of the town. This munificent gift, in the fiftieth year of his residence in the parish, is a fitting memorial of Her Majesty's Jubilee. It was built by Mr. Parsons, in accordance with designs prepared by Prof. Roger Smith, and has not only been deservedly admired, but has proved well suited to its purpose, and is evidently appreciated by the public. In the following October the Wandsworth Book Club filled in the space over the apse with ornamental encaustic tiles, on which the words "The Longstaff Reading Room" stand out boldly. At the same time the other Commissioners commemorated their chairman's generosity by placing a brass tablet over the entrance door which is inscribed as follows :—

"This Reading Room was presented to the parish of Wandsworth in H.M. Queen Victoria's Jubilee Year, by George Dixon Longstaff, M.D., First Chairman of the Library Commissioners, during the 50th year of his residence in the parish, and the 88th of his age."

In November, 1887, the commissioners placed a selection of works, such as the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, *Dictionary of National Biography*, with dictionaries, directories, &c., on open shelves in the Reference Library, so that readers might consult them without filling in a form; the plan has proved very successful.

No less than 1,481 volumes, many of them new books of great value, were presented during 1887.

The library now¹ contains 10,058 volumes—a respectable number for so young an institution, but far short of the demand of the numerous readers. 1,290 new readers' tickets have been issued during the year. In the Lending Library 91,878 volumes were issued during the twelve months ending June 20th, 1887. It is gratifying to learn that while the novels are more popular than ever, the demand for works of a more solid character has increased in a larger proportion. Twenty-three volumes were lost during 1887, mostly through the borrowers leaving the town,

¹ March, 1888.

but eight of them were paid for. It is a matter of great regret that eight volumes were stolen from the Reference Library early in the same year; the thief has never been discovered, but additional precautions were taken and nothing further has been missed.

It may fairly be taken as a proof of the success of the Wandsworth Library, that since its establishment the following neighbouring parishes have adopted the Public Libraries Acts—Wimbledon, 1885; Fulham, 1886; Lambeth, 1886; Battersea, 1887; Chelsea, 1887; Clapham, 1887, and Putney, 1887.

Six of the members of the original commission are still sitting, of the other three, two resigned through leaving the parish, and the third declined to offer himself for re-election.

The house converted to the uses of the library formed the mansion to a large estate, and one of the former owners, Mr. Sigismund Rücker, was devoted to horticulture. His hothouses were famed for the beauty, the rarity and variety of their contents—notably the orchids, four of which were named after himself. Alas! the onward march of the great metropolis has overtaken this fine estate; the orchids are gone, and there only remains the tall auracaria, the wisteria, whose lovely clusters of mauve flowers drape the Reference Library, the magnolias and some climbing plants. A few rhododendrons are all that are left of the magnificent hedge that was one of the glories of the place. The estate has shared the fate of many others in the suburbs and is now being covered with street after street of houses; the parterres of bright flowers, the greenhouses and hothouses filled with exotics have all been swept away by the advancing tide of bricks and mortar.

The house lies back some twenty yards off the main road from London to Kingston. It is approached by a semicircular drive, and somewhat hidden from the road by a cluster of trees—elms, whitethorn, and holly. It stands at the corner of a new road, Santos Road, and close by was a milestone, "6½ miles to Whitehall and 7 to the Exchange." A prominent object is the east wing, which the Longstaff Reading Room forms. The building is two-storied in front, the ground floor being devoted to library purposes, while two of the rooms on the first floor are reserved for ladies.

Passing through the porch you find facing you a glass case, which contains the books recently added, and a selection from the shelves, the librarian taking care to keep the interest of his

readers from flagging by putting on view works on any subject which may from time to time be much discussed. To the left are baize-covered doors leading to the Lending and Reference Libraries, alongside the case is the staircase to the ladies' rooms and librarian's apartments, and on the right are the swinging glazed doors to the Longstaff Reading Room. Near the entrance door is a constant supply of filtered water.¹

The Longstaff Reading Room is a handsome apartment, being 70 feet long, 25 feet wide, and 26 feet to the apex of the roof. It is built of white bricks with white stone dressings. The roof is waggon-shaped and made of pine stained in two colours. The walls are coloured terra cotta, with ivory white cornice and Corinthian pilasters. The wooden dado, which is 6 feet high, is in panels, stained alternately satin-wood and walnut. At the end of the room nearest to West Hill there is a semi-circular apse which is lighted by five windows, and the rest of the room is lighted by ten large windows. Artificial light is supplied by five pendant self-ventilating Wenham gas lamps. The heating is effected by hot water pipes, over which the cold air from outside passes before entering the room. The windows are on a patent ventilating principle. The flooring is of wood blocks embedded in pitch laid on concrete. On the end wall of the room opposite the apse is a clock, the gift of a watchmaker in the parish. On the same wall are placed day by day the contents bills of the leading London dailies. A double Cotgreave newspaper rack is between the first two windows, and between each of the others is a newspaper stand. Down the middle of the room are tables on which lie the papers in covers, the monthly magazines lying on the table in the apse. Austrian bent wood chairs complete the furnishing of the room. Readers are requested by means of notice blocks to keep all papers on their proper tables. Two copies of the London dailies are taken, but there are only stands for one copy of each, so that the second copy lies on the table. It is an advantage in a free public reading room to have the papers on stands rather than on tables, as they can be used by more than one at a time. Both cardboard and Cotgreave solid leather reading cases are in use; on several of the former the outside cover of the magazine has been placed: readers can thus find the magazines more easily.

¹ Now removed, as the privilege was abused.

Retracing our steps we pass into the Lending Library, where is the Cotgreave Indicator. Without an indicator the work of issuing books for home reading would not be effected with anything like the ease, rapidity, economy, and general satisfaction that is now experienced. With the Indicator a day or issue book is used.

In that which was formerly the conservatory is the public catalogue, and as the catalogue does not yet fill the frame, the rest of the space is utilized by exhibiting local views. On the walls are ordnance maps of the parish and district on various scales.

The Reference Reading Room is entered from the conservatory. This room is beautifully painted and gilded, a not disagreeable reminiscence of the former occupants of the house. There are three large mirrors and a white marble mantelpiece, over which is a clock, also a gift. On the walls are hung maps. Funds have not allowed of the erection of bookcases yet, but a Commissioner has kindly given one, and a bookcase from the old committee room has been placed here.

Behind the Indicator is the book store, or Lending Library. The books are ranged in classes, but the numbering is consecutive, gaps being left for additions. Beyond is the committee room, against the walls of which are shelved the rest of the Reference Library books.

On the first floor over the Lending Library and hall are two ladies' rooms; these call for no further comment except that they are well patronised.

The room formerly used as Reference Library is now the committee room and librarian's room.

I am indebted for much information respecting the library to the first and second annual reports, which, with the Catalogue and Key to Indicator (classes F and J), are all the publications of the library. A new edition of the Catalogue and Key to the Indicator are in hand. Dr. G. D. Longstaff issued in 1885 *Notes on the Contents of the Wandsworth Public Library.*

CECIL T. DAVIS, *Librarian.*

P.S.—I am happy to report that since this paper was read before the Library Association, the affairs of the library have materially improved.—C. T. D.

3ottings.

On another page we announce that the annual meeting of the Library Association will be held this year at Nottingham instead of at Bristol. We regret that it was impossible to announce this change of plan any sooner, but the matter has only been decided within the last few days.

It is unnecessary to go into the reasons why the Bristol Meeting has been abandoned further than to state that for various local reasons it would have been inexpedient to have held the meeting there this year. Several gentlemen, whose position and inclination would have caused them to take the lead in welcoming the Association, will be abroad in the autumn, and it was felt by the local managers that in the absence of these it would be a mistake to meet at Bristol.

Under the circumstances the Council felt that it would be wiser to accept a cordial invitation from Nottingham. We have, however, before us a letter from Sir Joseph D. Weston, one of the members for Bristol, and chairman of the Public Library, expressing the regret of himself and his colleagues that the meeting should have fallen through for this year, and holding out prospects of a very hospitable welcome should the Association see its way to meet in Bristol at another time.

A great deal has been said for some years past about the unwisdom of spending so much time and money on what has been irreverently termed the picnic element of the Annual Meetings, and many of our most respected members never cease to urge that we should have more work and less play at our yearly gatherings.

It does seem a little absurd that, during business, we should be compelled to keep one eye on the programme and another on the clock, in case the time has arrived for waggonettes to be at the door, or some other distraction from the real business of the meeting, and that the length of a discussion is determined not by the importance of the subject, but by the profusion of the local programme.

Our American cousins show us a good example in the matter of useful discussions on all practical subjects, and if they go in for picnics, they reserve them until the business of the meeting is entirely over, when those who can spare the time give a few days to excursions and other forms of amusement.

As one of the new-light librarians, and an apostle of "practical librarianship," Mr. Briscoe has now an excellent opportunity for making a model meeting and showing others how it should be done.

A well-known library manager is said to have a correspondent who wrote for a copy of "Dive and Ho," a title which he afterwards simplified into "I've and Ho." He further asked for Ouida's "Tricky Trim"—a suggestion worthy of the other correspondent who applied for the works of "Harry Stoffle." We knew of a lady who asked at Mudie's for George Eliot's "Norman Nérucla." It would be a great pity if the progress of education were to eliminate refreshing blunders of this sort.

Mr. Augustine Birrell, M.P. for West Fife, delivered a lecture at Cowdenbeath on April 2nd in aid of the funds of the local reading-room. The subject of his lecture was "The Wit and Wisdom of the World for a £5 Note," and ranged on a table before him was a collection of books by the best authors which had cost exactly £5, and which he afterwards presented to the managers of the library. The books included poetical, historical, and biographical works, novels, and treatises, classified under the head of "Meditation and Reflection." On most of the volumes before him Mr. Birrell passed comprehensive and commendatory criticism, his comments being enlivened by frequent flashes of humour. In conclusion, he said that although the books were of trifling pecuniary value, they were of priceless literary worth, and there was not a "lame duck" among them.

A correspondent of the *Guardian* calls attention to "the fact that, through the munificence of Dr. Bray, a large number of libraries for the use of the clergy were founded in the last century, the localities of which are annually published in the report of the trustees. They amount to no less than 154 in England and Wales alone. Moreover, there must be funds in hand for supplying new libraries, for grants have been made to theological colleges at Cuddesdon, Birmingham, Birkenhead, Truro, &c. Here, then, is obviously a means for gradually establishing libraries for the country clergy in every diocese, perhaps in every archdeaconry." He thinks that some reform is needed in the management of the charity, and adds: "Every year the country clergy are more and more in need of good theological books. There are many country districts where the clergy cannot afford to buy books, and starve their own minds and those of their hearers; and people wonder that country sermons are so often dull and stale."

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Prize Essays.

As last year's prize of Ten Pounds was not awarded, we propose this year to give PRIZES TO THE VALUE OF TWENTY POUNDS.

A Prize of TEN POUNDS is offered for the best essay on

"HOW TO GET THE ACTS ADOPTED."

[The essay should be a practical working guide to the promoters of a Free Public Library, and give such information as would be required by persons without any knowledge of the subject who desire to take the necessary legal steps and carry on the agitation to a successful conclusion.]

A Second Prize of THREE POUNDS will be given for the essay second in merit and adjudged worthy of a prize.

THREE PRIZES OF TWO POUNDS each are offered to Library Assistants for the best essays on the following subjects:

"How to make a Library known in its own district."

"Comparative merits of the Fixed and Movable Location."

"Methods of filing Periodicals, and preserving Pamphlets, Prints Maps, &c."

Essays should be signed with a motto and accompanied by a sealed letter inscribed with the motto and containing the author's full name and address; and should be sent to the Editor at 20, HANOVER SQUARE, on or before August 8th.

A Prize of ONE POUND is offered to Library Assistants for the best selection of SIX LEAFLETS suitable for circulation in places where an effort is being made to get the Acts adopted. Original matter is not required, and copies of leaflets that have been actually used may be submitted in print or manuscript. Each leaflet must bear the competitor's name and address, and be sent to the Editor at 20, Hanover Square, on or before July 1st.

Obituary.

THE REV. SAMUEL SAVAGE LEWIS.

We have to record with profound regret the sudden death of the Rev. Samuel Savage Lewis, M.A., F.S.A., Fellow of Corpus Christi College, which occurred in a railway carriage between Oxford and Kirtlington station, on Tuesday evening, March 31st. The deceased, who was fifty-four years of age was a late exhibitor and Mawson scholar of Corpus Christi College. He graduated in the Classical Tripos, 1868, being bracketed ninth in the first class with Mr. Fynes Clinton, of St. John's College. Mr. Lewis was elected to a Fellowship in 1869, and filled subsequently the College offices of Librarian, Prælector and Classical Lecturer. Mr. Lewis was a life member of the Library Association, and always took a warm interest in its proceedings. His latest literary work was the article which appeared in our last issue, and in connection with which we received a visit from him two days before his death.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Die Erfindung der Buchdruckerkunst nach den neuesten Forschungen. Dem deutschen Volke dargestellt von Professor Karl Faulmann. Mit 36 in den Text gedruckte Abbildungen und einer Staammtafel der Familie Günsfleisch-Gutenberg. Wien: A. Hartlebens, Verlag, 1891, 8vo. pp. viii., 156. Price, marks.

Prof. Faulmann throws very little, if any, new light on any of the vexed questions of Gutenberg's career as a printer, but his book, by virtue both of the documents which it reprints, and of its numerous illustrations, is really valuable. The three points which he claims to have established are (i.) that the Invention of Printing was not such a simple matter that we can lightly believe it to have been made simultaneously in two or three different places; (ii.) that by the testimony of his contemporaries the invention was made by Johann Gutenberg at Mentz; (iii.) that the stories about Gutenberg's extreme poverty are mere legends, and not worthy of credit. Obviously the second of these propositions is much the most important, and it is disappointing to find that Prof. Faulmann makes no attempt to combat the extremely ingenious reasoning by which Mr. Hessels traces every early testimony to Gutenberg as the inventor of printing, either to Gutenberg's relations, or to the Monastery of St. Victor, near Mentz, of which he was a lay member; in other words, as Mr. Hessels puts it, to Gutenberg's own boastings. Much in the same way Prof. Faulmann, who believes in the priority of the 36-line Bible, passes very lightly over the evidence adduced by Herr Dziatzko as proof that the text of the greater part of the 36-line Bible was set up by a printer already possessed of a copy of the 42-line edition. It is possible, as he asserts, that Herr Dziatzko's facts can be accounted for by the supposition that both Bibles were printed from the same, or from kindred, manuscripts.

But as Herr Dziatzko, as far as we can make out, is the only writer on the subject who has ever taken the trouble to read through half a dozen pages of either edition, we regret that greater space has not been devoted to a consideration of his arguments. A few of Prof. Faulmann's illustrations have been made specially for this volume, but the majority have been gathered together from various books already in print. We mention this not in a spirit of ingratitude, or from the point of view of the mercenary "collector," but because the author has revived his old theory that the 36-line Bible was printed with wooden types, and has triumphantly reproduced the two lines which he had set up some years with wooden types specially cut to demonstrate the possibility of his theories. Now these two lines compare fairly well with the two "fac-similes" borrowed from Herr Dziatzko, they compare less well with a reproduction made specially for Dr. Faulmann, and they compare very poorly indeed with the 36-line Bible itself. The object-lesson is thus considerably less convincing than it is intended to be.

Traité complet de la Science du Blason, à l'usage des bibliophiles, archéologues, etc., par Jouffroy d'Eschavannes. Ouvrage orné de nombreux blasons finement gravés. Paris: librairie Marpon, 1891, 8vo. pp. 277. Price, 6 francs.

Among the many subjects with which the virtuous librarian must acquire an acquaintance, Heraldry is certainly not the least important, and for bibliographical purposes French heraldry is even more necessary than English. To allow a coat of arms stamped on a good binding to pass unidentified is a cause of shame and disgrace, yet the hunt through the pages of *Guigard*, even the new *Guigard*, is often long and wearisome, and a few hours spent in mastering the rudiments of heraldry are soon made up by the time saved when researches of this kind have to be undertaken. Canon Jenkins' *Heraldry, English and Foreign* (Kegan Paul & Co.) is perhaps the best small handbook in English, and now M. Jouffroy d'Eschavannes has contributed a useful little French manual on the subject, which we can cordially recommend. The great merit of this book is the profuseness of its illustrations, which are clearly drawn, and explain at once to the eye the meaning of all the heraldic terms in common use. Its chief defect is that in the glossary, at the end of the work, the author has omitted to state the pages on which he has explained and illustrated the terms treated of in the body of his book. This creates a difficulty in the use of the manual as a work of reference, and it is a pity it has not been rectified.

Les Incunables de la ville de Lyon et les premiers débuts de l'imprimerie. Par Auné Vingtrinier. Lyons: 1890, 8vo. pp. 39.

M. Vingtrinier's pamphlet is apparently a report of a popular lecture, in which some of the chief *incunabula* in the town library at Lyons are mentioned and commented on. M. Vingtrinier's chief point is that the date commonly assigned to the introduction of printing into Lyons does not allow for the months, or (as M. Vingtrinier is inclined to say) the years, which a printer would require to get his types cut and his printing house in order. The argument is not very important, as it presumably applies to other places as well as Lyons, and the effect of everywhere antedating the introduction of the art by two or three years would be to leave matters very much as they are at present.

A Catalogue of Books Printed at or Relating to the University, Town, or County of Cambridge. Part A.—I. Books Printed at Cambridge, 1521-1700. II. Miscellaneous, 1520-1700. On Sale by Macmillan & Bowes, Cambridge. 8vo, pp. iv., 103.

Although no more pretentious claim is advanced for this work than "that it is only a bookseller's catalogue," yet no one can rise from an examination of its pages without being impressed with the fact that in many respects it is a model bibliography of a local press. It is true that it deals only with such books as Messrs. Macmillan & Bowes actually possess, and thus its completeness is necessarily limited; but in the scheme as proposed by the publishers the appendix to a later part of the catalogue will supply the *lacuna*, especially of books known to have been printed at Cambridge to the year 1640. In the present part the descriptions leave nothing to be desired for fulness and accuracy. The titles are printed at length, the collations are on the most scientific principles, and the size notation is that of form not of measurement. Every imperfection is most scrupulously noted, particular care being given to the blank leaves, the neglect of which so frequently distresses the bibliographer. A word of explanation is necessary with regard to the second section of the catalogue. The books contained in it are connected with Cambridge or Cambridgeshire, but not printed there. These include works printed by former University printers, Topographical books, Verses and Plays of local interest, Acts of Parliament relating to Cambridge, works by distinguished men living in Cambridge, &c., &c. Not the least valuable part of the catalogue is the short biographical account of each author appended to the description of his work. These notes are of great interest and contain information brought together, much of it for the first time, from many sources. It is proposed to include in Part B., Cambridge books from 1701 to 1800; Part C., from 1801 to the present time; and Part D., additions, MSS., maps, engravings, appendix, &c. We earnestly hope that the publishers will bring their labours to a fitting conclusion by printing an index to the whole work, which they promise to do if a sufficient number of subscribers come forward to cover the outlay.

Library Catalogues.

Chelsea Public Libraries. Catalogue of the Central Library. London, 1891. Long 8vo., ll. 113 (unpaged).

Dictionary, double columns, full measure, contents, dates, and full use of capitals. An excellent catalogue of its kind, and singularly free from printer's errors, but why unpaged? The books in the Reference Department might have been more clearly denoted. We fear the very small R in the call number will not prevent borrowers applying frequently for such books to their disappointment. The catalogue is specially noticeable for its clearness, accuracy, and good workmanship, and Mr. Quinn must be congratulated on its compilation.

Manchester Public Free Libraries. Occasional Lists, No. 2—the Fuller Collection. Manchester, Feb., 1891. Long 8vo, pp. 12.

This is a compact list of the works by, or relating to, Thomas Fuller, and other authors of the name of Fuller, collected by the late J. E. Bailey, and now deposited in the Reference Department of the Manchester Public Library. Of 165 entries 96 are works (and editions) of Thomas Fuller.

St. Marylebone Free Public Libraries. East Marylebone Free Library. Catalogue of Books in the Lending and Reference Libraries. London, 1891. Long 8vo, pp. 39.

Dictionary, double columns, title a line. Uniformity is wanting in the use of the preposition "by" in connection with authors' names, and subject-entries are not always sufficiently distinctive. Instance *Fowle's Poor Law*, under Law, yet not under Poor. Otherwise the catalogue is a good and clear one.

Loughton, Essex. Index Catalogue of the Books in the Lopping Hall Library. Edinburgh, 1890. 8vo, pp. 58.

A well printed and neat catalogue, single columns, title a line, compiled by Mr. W. C. Waller, the Hon. Librarian. The references from subject-entries to author-entry might have been rendered more useful by the addition of location (or call) numbers rather than the blank space left.

Reports of Libraries not under the Acts.

Birmingham Library. Annual Meeting, Report and Proceedings, 1891. 8 pp. Mr. Charles E. Scarse, Librarian.

The Committee report that the affairs of the Library are in a prosperous condition. The deficit of £204 has been reduced to £50. The sale of the supplement catalogue has realised a profit of nearly eight guineas. 1,000 volumes, exclusive of bound volumes of Magazines and Reviews, have been added during the year. Ventilation and lighting improved by the adoption of three regenerative gas lamps, communicating with an air shaft, in place of the numerous naked lights formerly used.

Bristol Museum and Library. Report of Proceedings at the Twentieth Annual Meeting. . . 1891. pp. 12. Mr. E. R. Norris Matthews, Librarian.

The report of the Council is not too sanguine; the building debt still remains an incubus; Imperial and Local Taxes have been levied on the Institution: the Library Department is handicapped by the establishment in close proximity of a free library. Expenditure has exceeded income by £51 14s. 4d. Decrease in number of subscribers to the library. 275 volumes and 100 bound volumes of magazines and periodicals have been added.

Hull Subscription Library. Report of the Committee to the One Hundred and Fifteenth Annual General Meeting, 1890. . . 44 pp. Mr. Alfred Milner, Librarian.

769 volumes have been added at a cost of £248. 43 volumes have been presented. The Committee are of opinion that bookbinding by contract is on the whole the most satisfactory arrangement. Nothing definite as to a new catalogue has been decided. The lighting of the building is to be improved. The balance of £17 due to the bankers last year has been reduced to £16.

Paddington Free Public Library. Third Annual Report. . . 1890. pp. 24. Mr. Alfred Caddie, Librarian.

Second annual meeting of subscribers and friends was held on February 22nd, 1890, also a drawing-room meeting was held at the residence

of the Earl of Meath, on July 11th, 1890. It has been estimated that 64,775 visits have been paid by the public: viz. 61,200 on weekdays, and 3,575 on Sundays and bank holidays. 4,332 books issued in the Reference Library, of which 2,279 (less than half!) are classed as fiction. 404 volumes added by donations during the year, making the total 3,550 volumes. Committee regret their inability to open a Lending Department. On page 7 there is mentioned a deficit of £13, but on folio 2 of the accounts it is stated as £33.

Maimonides Library. . . Report of the Librarian, 1890.
pp. 21. Mr. Max Cohen, Librarian.

Increase in the circulation about 2,500 volumes over the previous year. The percentage of fiction circulated has fallen from 85 per cent. of the reading in 1883, to 48 per cent in 1890. The reason given is that the number of works other than fiction on the shelves has been very materially increased during the period in question. A beginning has been made to provide printed catalogues of the contents of the library. The English novel which has been issued the most times is *Hazard of New Fortunes* by Howells. Not one of the novels written by Mrs. H. Wood, Miss Braddon or "Ouida," has been issued as many as twenty times.

Redwood. One Hundred and Sixtieth Report of the Directors of the Redwood Library and Athenæum, Newport, R. I. . . 1890. 27 pp. Mr. Richard Bliss, Librarian.

A new gallery has been built, thus affording more shelf accommodation. 35,220 volumes in the library; 10,774 have been catalogued on cards; of these Mrs. Bliss catalogued 8,103 volumes in 21 months. "If there is one thing more than another that is absolutely indispensable in a library (the books themselves excepted) it is a catalogue." 888 books have been added during the year. 9,445 volumes have been issued, of which fiction forms 55 per cent. Number of works used in the library less than in former years; possibly the decadence of the "prize question" mania may be an important factor in this decrease. One gentleman bore the expense of binding the periodicals and a large number of works of foreign literature.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

Written notes or authenticated newspaper cuttings are more welcome than whole newspapers.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be forwarded.

BANBRIDGE: IRELAND.—Last year we recorded (vol. ii, page 269) the offer of a free library to the town of Banbridge. We are sorry to announce the death of the gentleman who made the offer, Mr. Henry Matier, of Belfast, which took place suddenly in March, before he had been able to carry out his generous intentions.

BIRMINGHAM.—On April 13th the Mayor of Birmingham (Alderman Clayton) and Alderman Johnson (chairman of the Free Libraries Committee) laid the memorial stones of the new branch free libraries which are in course of erection in Spring Hill and Saltley Road. The site of the Spring Hill Library is that which was formerly occupied by the turnpike-gate house at the corner of Icknield Street. The building, which will cost about £4,500, is being erected from the designs of Messrs. Martin and Chamberlain, and will be completed in about four months. After the Mayor had laid the memorial stone at Spring Hill, the members of the Free Libraries Committee drove to the site of the new library, at the corner of Saltley Road and Lingard Street, where the stone-laying ceremony was performed by Alderman Johnson. The site is a very irregular one, with an acute angle formed by the junction of Saltley Road and Lingard Street. The building is to be erected from plans by Mr. Jethro A. Cossins. After having "well and truly" laid the stone, Alderman JOHNSON said:—

He could not but recollect on that interesting occasion the time (more than fifty years ago) when, as a boy, he used to wander over that spot, which was then a green field, on his way to the village of Saltley. It might be that in fifty years to come, when Birmingham had extended far away towards the rising sun, some youth whom he saw before him, as an alderman, councillor, or perhaps mayor, might be privileged to lay the stone of another free library on the confines of the borough, probably at Ward End or Castle Bromwich. The new Branch libraries were amongst the most important institutions of the town. As Alderman Barrow had stated, they were a necessary complement to the Board Schools. In the Board Schools the children were taught to read, and in the free libraries they were given good healthy literature to read, and there was not the slightest doubt that the Board School instruction would be to a great extent wasted were it not for the institution of free libraries. At one time it would have been perfectly unnecessary to say a word in defence of free libraries, but a very serious and earnest attack had been made upon them by gentlemen whose opinions on other questions were entitled to great respect—he referred to the followers of Mr. Herbert Spencer and all those people who objected to State interference and State aid for what people could do for themselves. The principal ground of objection was that these libraries were used too much for the purpose of mere amusement, and it could not be altogether denied that that was the case. The majority of the books taken out by the young people at the branch libraries were novels and tale books. But there was a great deal to be said on the other side, for children were often tempted to read by novels and books of amusement. When one considered that a great proportion of the working population were engaged in employments which were monotonous in the extreme, one could not wonder that in their times of recreation they should seek principally books of amusement. But every middle-class man, if he told the truth, would admit that he first got the habit of reading novels and then reading for information until he found that, fascinating as was the perusal of novels, for real serious interest to the mind, for relief from work, for consolation in sorrow, something more than mere amusement was wanted, such as reading for the earnest purpose of acquiring information and instruction. While we might deplore there should be so much reading for mere amusement, it was undoubtedly the case that many people gradually went on from reading fiction to reading for information. The library, the foundation stone of which he had laid, would not only afford the residents the opportunity of borrowing books, but would give them an excellent news-room with all the chief papers for their use. If there was one thing more than another which would make a man search for information it was the intelligent reading of newspapers. Let them take any daily newspaper, and they would find that to properly understand all the information it contained a very large amount of general knowledge was required. If he wanted to estimate a man's general intelligence he should not put him through an examination in Greek, Latin, or mathematics, but should take a copy of the *Post* or the *Gazette*, and examine him column after

column to see what information he could give on the subjects dealt with in those columns. It would be an examination in geography, in history, in science, in football and cricket, and all he could say was that unless the examiners were very lenient indeed, and allowed one mark in ten to count, he should not like to have to pass through the examination himself. Lately the Free Libraries Committee had taken a very important step in furnishing information for the purpose of aiding the intelligent reading of the newspapers. It was well to recollect that if young people were to get the idea of reading novels and useful books it was for them first to read the newspapers, which would teach them to search for further information from other sources. He did not think the committee had taken a more important step since free libraries were established than in providing works of reference in all the branch libraries. There were not a hundred middle-class houses in the town that had such a good collection of works of reference and current literature as would be found in the branch and central libraries. He could only express the hope that many of the inhabitants of the ward would year after year find themselves more and more able to carry on the culture begun in their school life, and obtain every information on all those questions of public interest, and that the library would become a centre of life and intelligence in the ward for years to come.

Councillor BARBER, in proposing a vote of thanks to Alderman Johnson, said they must all rejoice heartily in the public spirit which the Free Libraries Committee had displayed in conceding to the wishes of the various wards in the matter of branch libraries. He trusted that the young people would make a good use of the one which was in course of erection in Nchells. Councillor TOWLER seconded the resolution. He pointed out that the library was in no small measure due to the money received from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The provision of that library would deprive future candidates in the ward of a good election cry. Alderman BARROW, in putting the resolution, congratulated the ward on the erection of what would be an excellent library. Alderman JOHNSON acknowledged the compliment, and said that when the surplus which Mr. Goschen gave to the county and city councils came within sight, the Birmingham Council were good enough to allow the Free Libraries Committee to have the first claim. The branch library which he had laid the stone of was the first addition to the city out of that surplus fund.

CARLISLE.—The proposal to destroy a very old and notable house in Carlisle recently has had a result very beneficial to the town. The house is that known as "Tullie House," it having been erected in the year 1689 for Chancellor Tullie, and it was proposed to pull it down and sell the site, together with the adjoining grounds, about an acre in extent, as building land. A subscription list was at once started, and the donors, who included the Bishop of Carlisle, the Duke of Devonshire, and the Earl of Carlisle, have contributed £5,000, with which sum the property has been purchased and presented to the Corporation conditionally that the Public Libraries Acts should be adopted. A meeting of inhabitants heartily adopted the Libraries Act, and it has been decided to build a public library, art gallery, technical and arts schools, and lecture hall, at a cost of £12,000. Plans are being prepared by Mr. W. Howard Smith, the city surveyor. The Acts were adopted in June last. (See *The Library*, vol. ii., 269.)

CHERTSEY.—An interesting discussion on the question of a free library for Chertsey took place at the Literary and Debating Society on March 18th. At the close Mr. Ashton proposed that a free library for Chertsey was desirable, and the resolution was carried unanimously. It was then proposed that a committee of ten ratepayers should be formed to call upon the vestry to convene a public meeting to see whether the Free Libraries Act should be adopted.

COLCHESTER.—On March 19th a largely attended meeting was held in the Town Hall, for the purpose of discussing the advisability of adopting the Free Libraries Act in Colchester. Mr. Henry Laver pre-

sided, and in opening the proceedings, said "that in his opinion a free library was the greatest blessing that could be given to a town, and its proved advantages were so great that he had never yet heard of one being given up in any place where it had been adopted." The following resolution was passed unanimously :—"That this meeting resolves itself into a Free Libraries Association, the object of which shall be to use all practical means to induce the ratepayers of Colchester to adopt the Public Libraries Acts."

DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.—We regret to learn that the excellent librarian of the Douglas Library, Mr. de Maine Browne, is suffering from the effects of a serious accident. Still weak from his recent illness, he fell from a ladder and struck his back against a table. He had to be carried home and is still confined to his bed.

EDINBURGH.—At a recent meeting of the Edinburgh Public Library Committee, a report by Mr. Morrison, the librarian, on the state of the library, was read. The reference department had been open on 195 days. It was growing in popularity, and the attendance was often very satisfactory. Since the opening 38,793 volumes had been consulted, giving an average of 198 per day. During the last four weeks the daily average had been 292. In the lending department the total number of readers enrolled was 40,783—of whom 12,803 were electors, and 27,975 were non-electors. Excepting Manchester, where there were six branches for lending purposes, and the number of readers for the year was 42,695, the Edinburgh register, although the library had been open for seven and a-half months only, was nearly double that of any other public library in England—Liverpool, for example, having only over 9,000 readers. The lending department had been open on 194 days, and the number of issues had been 517,490. It was interesting to note, Mr. Morrison pointed out, that with so large an issue, no book had been absolutely lost to the library. Where loss had occurred, it had been made good by the borrower. The issues from the lending department had been as follows :—Religion, 19,511; philosophy, 3,821; sociology, 10,384; science and art, 46,500; poetry and the drama, 12,272; fiction, 219,685; history, biography and travel, 55,454; general literature, 66,082; and juvenile literature, 83,781. The average daily issue had been 2,610 volumes. The percentage of prose fiction to the whole was 42, which was lower than the percentage at any library of which he had returns. Putting Edinburgh alongside of the thirteen largest English towns, it was found that in the fourteen Edinburgh was fifth in population, second in the number of readers, and last in the percentage of prose fiction issued. In the juvenile department the last shelf and the last indicator number had been filled up, and the question of space would now be becoming an urgent one. In the news-room, the numbers had undergone no change since the date of last report. Professor Masson remarked upon the statistics as very satisfactory; and he commented especially on the quality of the reading as shown by the comparatively low percentage of fiction read.

GOSPORT.—*The Hampshire Telegraph* says that the Gosport Free Library has become in less than a month one of the most popular institutions of Gosport. Mr. B. Carter, the librarian, has been busily at work, 800 cards having been issued to borrowers. The average daily issue of books since the opening has been 112, and during the past week the number has risen to 129, the increase being entirely in works other than fiction. The reading-room continues to be well patronized, especially in the evening.

HOVE : near BRIGHTON.—The ratepayers of Hove have declared in favour of the adoption of the Libraries Acts, the polling being as follows :—in favour of the adoption of the Acts, 1,197 ; against, 502 ; majority, 695.

KENDAL.—Much interest has been taken in the scheme for the adoption of the Free Libraries Act in Kendal. A few months ago a public meeting was held which almost unanimously accepted the resolution in favour of a free library being established, subject to £2,000 being subscribed. The matter was taken in hand by an energetic committee, and the amount promised, including £500 from Mr. Swinglehurst, has reached £2,300. The Corporation was asked to grant the old Market Hall for the library, and after a discussion this was granted. The voting took place on April 14th, and the Mayor afterwards declared the issue as follows :—For a free library, 1,168 ; against, 766 ; majority, 402. There were 372 papers declared invalid, owing chiefly to their not being filled up. The total number of electors is about 2,500.

KIRKWALL.—Provost Peace, as chairman of the committee of the Kirkwall Free Library, has received a letter from Mr. Andrew Carnegie, congratulating Kirkwall upon its enterprise and public spirit in getting up a free library, and enclosing a draft for £516 15s. 10d., that being the amount of the donations in money and books which has been raised by the committee, Mr. Carnegie having previously promised to give as much as could be raised locally.

LONDON : BRITISH MUSEUM.—On March 11th, at the Central Criminal Court, W. Armstrong S. Glanville Richards, thirty-five, was indicted for a misdemeanour in having maliciously damaged certain manuscripts kept at the British Museum. Mr. Forrest Fulton and Mr. Horace Avory conducted the prosecution. Mr. F. Fulton said these proceedings were taken under a section of the Malicious Injury to Property Act. The defendant was a gentleman who had taken a great interest in matters of genealogical research, and in 1883 he had written "The Records of the Anglo-Norman House of Glanville, from 1050 to 1880." There was also another gentleman named Leete, residing at Norwood, who was engaged in the same researches as the defendant. Mr. Leete had produced a work in 1881, in which he traced the genealogy of the family of that name, and owing to this circumstance the defendant and Mr. Leete became known to each other. In August, 1883, Mr. Leete received a letter from the defendant, stating that he was a reader at the reading-room of the British Museum, and had facilities for assisting Mr. Leete in his researches respecting the family of Leete. He added that he had made a valuable discovery amongst the Harleian MSS., which would show a direct connection between the family of Leete and the family of Avenell, which was of very ancient origin. It was alleged that the defendant had made five fictitious additions to the MSS. with the pedigree of the Avenell family. From time to time Mr. Leete paid the defendant money for his services, and the latter forwarded notes and documents with the object of verifying the statements he had made. Some time last year, however, Mr. Leete placed the documents sent by the defendant in the hands of Mr. Corbett Anderson, of the British Museum, for the purpose of having the facts verified, and it was then discovered that very serious alterations had been made in the Harleian MSS. for the purpose, apparently, of tracing the Leete family back for several generations. Mr. Scott, keeper of the MSS. at the British Museum, stated that there did not appear to have been the slightest attempt to disguise the handwriting on the MSS. The manuscripts in question were used as evidence in the House of Lords upon questions of pedigree, and were priceless ; but the effect of the alterations was to

render them practically useless. In his defence, the defendant absolutely denied the allegations made against him. The jury, in finding a verdict of guilty, expressed their deep regret that MSS. of such worth should have been damaged in any way. The recorder sentenced the defendant to two months' imprisonment.

LONDON: CLAPHAM.—The contributor of £2,000 to the Clapham Public Library fund, whose identity has hitherto been so jealously guarded, was Mr. William A. Guesdon, 40, North-side, Clapham Common, recently deceased.

LONDON: HACKNEY.—The Rev. J. Dekewer Williams, who is an opponent of rate-supported libraries, advocates the foundation of a free library for Hackney to be supported by voluntary subscriptions; and as a proof of his earnestness in promoting the scheme, Mr. Williams opens the ball with an offer of £500, and a small but good museum.

LONDON: LAMBETH.—On March 21st the building known as Old Hawkstone Hall, Waterloo Road, was formally opened as a temporary reading-room by the Library Commissioners for the parish of Lambeth. The Rev. A. W. Jephson presided at the inaugural meeting, and among those present were the Hon. and Rev. Canon Pelham, Mr. Edwin Lawrence, Mr. Evan Spicer, Mr. J. W. Howlett, Mr. J. Smith, and others. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said the Commissioners were determined to keep out of debt, and that was the reason they had not opened a branch there before. The hall in which they were met was that in which the late Rev. G. M. Murphy, better known as "the Bishop of the New Cut," carried on his evangelical labours, and gathered together an enthusiastic band of followers. The hall was now to be devoted to another form of public utility—namely, a reading-room for the district, it not being their intention as yet to open a lending library. It was sometimes objected that reading rooms were the resort of lazy people. Looking, however, to the large number of working men who used them in the early morning, he regarded them as being a kind of informal labour bureau. Mr. Howlett, who spoke as one who had been a Band-of-Hope boy in that very building, said the Commissioners had experienced a very great difficulty in finding a suitable site in the district. Mr. Noble had offered them £10,000 for a library when they could obtain a site, and they had also an offer of £16,000 from Mr. H. Tate, conditionally upon the rate being raised from one halfpenny to a penny, a question upon which a vote would shortly be taken. Mr. Evan Spicer, Mr. Lawrence, and other gentlemen addressed the meeting, and the Chairman having formally declared the building open, the proceedings terminated. The reading-room will accommodate between 300 and 400 persons.

LONDON: LAMBETH.—The result of a poll on the question whether the present library rate of a ½d. in the pound should be increased to 1d., was declared on April 27th as follows:—For the increase, 9,662; against, 9,288; majority for, 374. The library commissioners will now be able to accept Mr. Henry Tate's offer to build a central library at an estimated cost of £15,000, and also to proceed with a library in North Lambeth, for which the late Mr. John Noble promised £10,000. The proceeds of the full penny rate will be £5,500 per annum, for the support of the central library and five branches.

LONDON: SHOREDITCH.—The ratepayers of Shoreditch have decided by 3,154 votes to 2,076 to adopt the Free Libraries Acts in their parish. They have further decided by 3,019 to 1,705 that the rate for the support of the free library shall be limited to ½d. in the pound. 14,294 voting papers were issued, of which 5,308 were returned valid, 6,135 invalid, and 2,851 were refused or not returned.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—The "Half-Hour Talks with the People about Books and Book Writers" continue to be largely attended and much appreciated.

NORWICH.—The fourth popular lecture of the winter series, given in connection with the Free Library, was delivered in Blackfriars Hall on March 3rd, by Bosworth Harcourt, Esq. Subject: "An Hour with Douglas Jerrold," with recital selections from his writings. W. H. Dakin, Esq. (Deputy Mayor), presided, and about 450 persons were present. The lecture was a happy combination of anecdote and biography skilfully narrated, and the recital selections were greatly enjoyed. The fifth and last lecture of the series was delivered in the same hall on April 14th, by Mr. H. F. Euren, on "Our Fens and Marshes: a Bit of Local History." Mr. M. P. Squirrell presided, and the attendance was fairly good. An instructive lecture, it was listened to throughout with great attention, being a fitting close to a very good course. As a topic of some local interest it is to be reproduced, by instalments, in the *Norwich Mercury*.

NOTTINGHAM.—On Wednesday, April 18th, Mr. Briscoe gave an address on "The School and the Library" before a largely attended meeting of School Board teachers.

The twenty-second—being the last—of this season's "Half-hour Talks" was given in the Carlton Road Reading Room on April 14th, by Councillor Wells. The historical class list of the Free Reference Library is now in the press.

SALE: CHESHIRE.—We omitted to state last month that Mr. George Bethell, late assistant in the Manchester Free Library, had been appointed librarian of this new library.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—On April 15th, a public meeting was held at the West Hartlepool Athenæum, for the consideration of the advisability of establishing a public library. The Mayor (Alderman Lauder) presided, and after hearing an address from Mr. J. J. Ogle, of Bootle, in favour of the project, Alderman Pyman moved:—"That this meeting of the ratepayers of West Hartlepool is of opinion that it is desirable to establish a free library in that town." Mr. Birks seconded the proposal, which was enthusiastically carried. The rate of 1d. in the £ allowed by the Act would, on a rateable value of £146,000, produce, after all deductions for compounding and irrecoverables, £560 per annum.

LIBRARIANS OF THE MERSEY DISTRICT.—The tenth Quarterly Meeting was held at the Widnes Local Board Offices on Friday, 27th February. Miss Proctor (Widnes Free Library) in the chair. It having been reported that Miss Frost had been compelled by ill health to withdraw from library work, a resolution of condolence with her was unanimously adopted. A conversation followed upon the action of free libraries in the district, in regard to the recent development of the Technical Education movement. It was suggested that the libraries would have a genuine claim to assistance from Technical Education funds in the increased demand for a constant supply of new books in Technical Literature. A discussion on the formation of a Benevolent Fund connection with the Library Association of the United Kingdom was introduced by Mr. May, and after some discussion the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That this meeting would respectfully recommend the Council of the Library Association of the United Kingdom to give effect to the suggestion in Mr. Maunde Thompson's Address, that some steps be taken to form a Benevolent Fund in connection with the Library Association."

Mr. Ogle read a paper on the "Selection of Biological and Geological Books," in which he gave short lists of the most useful books on each subject. A discussion followed in which several members took part. The meeting concluded with the usual thanks to the host of the evening, Miss Proctor.

The next meeting will be held in Liverpool, by the invitation of Messrs. Shaw (Athenæum) and Jones (Medical Institute), on the last Friday in May.

NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—The concluding meeting for the season was held in the Mayor's parlour, Loughborough, on Thursday, April 16th. There was a good attendance of librarians, including some ladies. The members were welcomed by the Mayor and the chairman of the Free Library Committee. A visit was made to the Rectory Library, where some of the treasures were laid out for inspection. The Rector gave a short account of the formation of this library, and of the character of its contents. The Free Library was next visited. After tea the meeting was resumed, with Mr. Briscoe, the president, in the chair. A report of the past year's proceedings, with a balance-sheet, was presented by Mr. Radford, the secretary and treasurer. Papers were read by Messrs. Moon (Loughborough), Dent (Nottingham), and on behalf of Mr. Oldershaw, the subjects being "Leicestershire Worthies," "A Puritan Divine and Author," and "Book Music in Libraries—a scheme." Interesting discussions followed the reading of the papers. The president, in the course of a short address, intimated that the next annual meeting of the parent Association would be held at Nottingham, on September 15th to 18th, instead of at Bristol, as announced at the Reading meeting. A grant was made to the reception fund. The next meeting will be held at Boston. Thanks were accorded to the Mayor for the use of the room, and to Mr. Moon for the local arrangements.

FOREIGN.

KIMBERLEY, SOUTH AFRICA.—We have received the seventh annual report of the Kimberley Public Library for the year 1888-89, together with the minutes of the annual meeting held on October 10th, 1889, and a report of the address delivered by the Hon. Mr. Justice Lawrence, LL.D., Chairman. This library is maintained by subscriptions, and the Government and the Borough Council grant £600 and £200 per annum respectively. The receipts from all sources during the year reported upon reached £1,681, but the estimated revenue for the year ending September 30th, 1890, is £2,315. There are 387 subscribers, and 8,272 volumes in stock. The year's circulation reached 12,781 volumes; the daily average attendance being 235. Arrangements are being made to supply books to a mining company's *employés* and to the Beaconsfield Public Library. A MS. subject catalogue has been prepared, and a numerical catalogue is in course of preparation. The address of the Hon. Mr. Justice Lawrence is a very practical one.

TASHKEND, TURKESTAN.—The Public Library here contains one of the largest collections of Islamic books in Asia. General von Kaufmann may be considered its founder, as at his request, after the conquest of Samarkand, A. F. Kuhn, his gifted private secretary, collected a number of rare books from the private Mohammedan libraries at Samarkand and Tashkend, which was increased by the partial incorporation of the costly library of the fugitive, Chan Mahomed-Rachim, acquired only by surrounding his palace by a strong force of Cossacks. At a later

date, Chan von Kokand's library, consisting chiefly of theological works, was added. Besides many costly printed books this library contains one Turkish, six Arabic, and sixty-nine Persian MSS., dealing for the most part with historical matter. A. F. Kuhn had an invaluable coadjutor in his work in E. T. Kall, who has recently compiled a catalogue, and thus rendered this valuable library available for scientific purposes.

Correspondence.

"CHIEF" LIBRARIANS.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY.

SIR,—Whether or not there was "more than one person engaged" at the institutions which "use the title Librarian by itself," does not appear from Ex-Assistant's communication—a fact which seems to have escaped Mr. Robertson.

But apart from that, it will be remembered that in his former letter Mr. Robertson stated that he had "failed to find one ['Chief' Librarian] that recognized also a 'Librarian' under him." Assuming this statement to be authentic I submitted what seemed to me a plausible explanation of the circumstance. But I did not then know that Mr. Robertson was a humourist. His humour in this instance has taken the form of imputing to me the authorship of his own statement, which he assumes (unwarrantably, at present) that Ex-Assistant disputes; and blandly dismisses the point as being an issue resting between Ex-Assistant and myself. There is a sense of drollery about this style of reasoning which is not altogether inconsistent with the thorough earnestness with which Mr. Robertson seems determined to pursue this absorbing topic to a satisfactory termination.

He is good enough to invite me to set my suggestive powers in operation. Well, I like to oblige when I can. And the simplest idea that strikes me at the moment is to follow the example of the school teachers. Or, if that should present difficulties, could not a special meeting of the members of the Association be summoned forthwith, in order that the concentrated acumen of the profession shall be brought to bear on this intricate problem? Or, why not offer a big prize for a satisfactory solution of the difficulty? If none of these proposals find favour I am afraid I must give it up.

I think we may find more serious subjects to claim our attention, in connection with the Association, and that it will be time enough to scientifically classify ourselves when we have put our house in better order.

Yours, &c.,
X-L.

Practical Librarianship.

SUPPLEMENT.

CAMBRIDGE CIRCULAR OF INFORMATION.—With this number we issue as a supplement a copy of a circular issued by the Committee of the Cambridge Free Library, designed to draw the attention of the public to the advantages of their Library. Mr. Pink seems determined to go out into the highways and compel readers to come to him.

CHANGING SYSTEMS.

The method of recording issue by temporary slips is understood to be commonly used in the United States. Will some reader kindly say whether it can be seen in operation anywhere in England? A temporary slip is used at Derby as an adjunct to the Indicator, but the enquiry is for examples of it used as the sole record.—CHARLES MADELEY, Warrington.

The Library Journal for April contains the following Articles :—

EDITORIALS.—Librarian of the Boston Public Library; New York Free Libraries.

COMMUNICATIONS.—Order Pockets, Library Newspapers, Catalogue Cards on Typewriters, Use of "Imprint," Librarians' Mutual Benefit Association, "Some Readers."

COLLECTION AND REGISTRATION OF FINES.—Detroit Public Library, H. M. Utley; Newark Free Public Library, C. M. Underhill; N. Y. Apprentices' Library, J. Schwartz.

Duties of a Library to its Staff, M. G. Crandall; Cataloguing of Government Documents, W. A. Merrill; Address at Dedication of the Library of the University of Pennsylvania—Talcott Williams; Library or Libraries—Cephas Brainerd.

American Library Association. State Library Associations.—Maine, New Jersey, Wisconsin. New York Library Club. Reviews.—Gräsel's Grundzüge der Bibliothekslehre.

A CURRENT CATALOGUE.

The Librarian of the Middlesbrough Public Library has designed and placed in the Lending Department of the Library a wall catalogue, which exhibits, in alphabetical order, the books added to the Lending Department month by month since the date of the supplementary catalogue (September, 1890). It consists of a flat case divided into sections of sufficient width to permit of slips containing title, author, and shelf number of each work being visible to borrowers under various sectional headings, such as "History and Biography," "Geography, Voyages and Travels," "Fiction, Poetry and the Drama," &c. The front of the case is removable, but is closed with glass so that the slips cannot be interfered with by the public. The monthly additions to the Library are set up in galley and pasted on the cardboard slips, and to place these in alphabetical order it is merely necessary to remove the front of the case, and slide the slips into the desired position in racks or broad grooves on the back of the case. The front, which is made to fit accurately on to these racks or grooves, is then replaced, and the slips are firmly locked and cannot get out of place.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

20, Hanover Square, W.

Its objects are (a) to encourage and aid by every means in its power the establishment of new libraries; (b) to endeavour to secure better legislation for public libraries; (c) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of libraries; and (d) to encourage bibliographical research.

An examination for Library Assistants has been instituted and certificates are issued to those who satisfy the examiners.

A large number of valuable papers have been published in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *The Library Chronicle*, and in *The Library*, its official organ, which is sent post-free every month to all members.

The annual subscription is one guinea, payable in advance, on the 1st January. The life subscription is fifteen guineas. *Library Assistants approved by the Council pay a subscription of half-a-guinea.*

The Hon. Secretaries will be glad to receive papers on appropriate subjects, for reading at the monthly and annual meetings.

Library Association Record.

The last monthly meeting of the Association was held at the Clapham Public Library on Monday, April 13th, 1891, at 8 p.m. The Rev. Charles P. Greene, Chairman of the Clapham Public Library Commissioners, occupied the Chair, and welcomed the members to Clapham and its library.

Mr. Welch, librarian of the Clapham Public Library, read an exhaustive paper upon the library under his charge. A discussion ensued, in which Messrs. Mason, Compton, Sadler, James, Welton, Maxwell and the Chairman took part.

On the motion of Mr. Inkster, seconded by Mr. Douthwaite, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Welch for his paper, and, on the motion of Mr. Tedder, seconded by Mr. Pacy, a similar compliment was paid to the Chairman and the Clapham Commissioners.

NEXT MEETING.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, May 11th, at 8 p.m. Mr. F. B. F. Campbell, of the Printed Book Department, British Museum, will read a paper entitled "A Plea for (1) an Annual List of State-Papers, and (2) an Annual Report on State-Papers." The Council will meet at 7.30 the same evening.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom will be held at Nottingham on September 15-18, and not at Bristol, as arranged at the Reading Meeting. Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, public librarian, is the honorary secretary of the local Reception Committee, and Mr. H. E. Hubbard, Borough accountant-auditor, the honorary treasurer. Papers intended for the Annual Meeting should be intimated to the hon. secretaries as soon as possible, and sent in not later than July 31st.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Hanover Square, W.—Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publishers, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

Literature of the Plague.¹

IN the year 1884 the late Mr. Cornelius Walford issued for private circulation a small volume entitled *A Statistical Chronology of Plagues and Pestilences as affecting Human Life*. In the appendix, which consisted of a chronological list of all the known plagues that have visited the world, the author inserted the titles of several books that he had met with on the subject, and in acknowledging his indebtedness to previous authors, he used these words: "I have, too, paid very especial attention to the literature of the subject. This literature is very vast, far more so than could at first sight be supposed. The object of incorporating it in its proper place in the table is that future investigators may have the source of more extended information as to particular outbreaks than it is possible in the present paper to supply ready to hand. It is, however, far from complete even yet."

A copy of this work having come into my hands, I proceeded partly out of curiosity, and partly from a love of research work, to see if I could add to the materials Mr. Walford had collected.

I was profoundly ignorant of the subject at the time, and great was my astonishment to find that in a very few weeks I had a mass of literature under my hands such as I never dreamed of. Mr. Walford, indeed, had only touched the fringe of the subject, and I can safely echo his words, that those who have never studied it can have no idea of the extent and variety of the literature of the plague.

The material which I thus collected may be broadly divided into two parts: The one consisting of records, such as documents in corporation archives, some of which are reproduced in various county histories; letters and papers in the Record Office, and extracts from parish registers and churchwardens' books of accounts. The other part consisted of books and documents that have issued from the printing press from the year 1480 to the present time.

¹ Read before the Library Association (Annual Meeting) at Reading, September, 1890.

Interesting and valuable as a catalogue of the records of the plague would have been, to have brought such a work to a satisfactory conclusion would have meant years of labour and entailed great expense, the originals being scattered all over the country. I therefore decided to direct my whole attention to the bibliography of the plague on the lines laid down by Mr. Walford.

The limits of this paper will not allow me to give more than a sketch of the results of my labour ; but I hope it will be sufficient to show the vast and varied character of the literature of the plague, and also its importance to the student of English literature, to the historian, and to the antiquary.

I must first of all point out that the plague in England was not confined to the outbreak of the year 1665. A plague year, as it was called—that is, a year in which the plague was more severe than usual—was said to be due in England once every twenty years ; but statistics and records show that such outbreaks occurred at least every ten years, and that there was scarcely a year throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in which the plague was not present in some part of the country.

The chief seaports, such as Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Kingston-upon-Hull, Chester, Bristol, Plymouth, Rye, Dover, and Sandwich, were more than once nearly depopulated through its ravages. The University towns, more especially Cambridge, were frequent and very heavy sufferers. Even remote country villages from time to time lost a great part of their inhabitants, entire families being carried off by the fell disease.

But the city which suffered most of all from the plague was the City of London. Its narrow streets and foul alleys, the large and congested population crowded within its walls, coupled with the almost total ignorance that prevailed concerning sanitary matters, made it at all times an easy prey to pestilential outbreaks.

From the time of the Black Death in the fourteenth century, until the Fire of London in 1666 burnt out the hotbeds of disease in the city, it may with truth be said that the plague never quitted its streets.

Now and again it was quiescent perhaps for five or six years, its victims being only a few score in the twelvemonth ; then it would break forth like a long-dormant volcano, sweeping through the length and breadth of the city and liberties, and slaying the terror-stricken citizens by tens of thousands.

At such times the sights which Pepys recorded during the summer and autumn of the year 1665 were common enough. The

"handwriting of death," as Dekker called it, was to be seen in every street, while the air resounded to the mournful tolling of church bells, and the cry of the bellman, "Bring out your dead!" The sittings of Convocation, Parliament, and the Law Courts were hastily broken up and adjourned. The Court fled to some more healthy spot, and all who could afford to do so followed its example. All amusements ceased, trade was paralyzed, and grass sprang up in what were wont to be the busiest thoroughfares.

Two fierce outbreaks occurred in London during the reign of Elizabeth, the first in the year 1562, by which 20,000 of the citizens are said to have perished. The second occurred thirty years later, by which 15,000 were swept away. The accession of James I. was marked by a terrible plague in London, the death-roll numbering nearly 40,000, and, strangely enough, the same dark herald proclaimed the accession of his son, and demanded a tribute from the Metropolis of 36,000 of its inhabitants.

Then followed the terrible outbreak of 1665, which, as regarded London, nearly equalled in magnitude the Black Death.

Such calamities as these, far-reaching in their results, and affecting even the laws and customs of the country, could not fail to influence its literature. Hence we find that from the year 1480 down to the year 1665, a constantly-growing number of books and other documents relating to it issued from the press. With the cessation of the plague the issue of this class of literature fell to a very low point. But in the year 1720, during the prevalence of the plague in the South of France, so great was the scare in this country, that the number of publications rose almost to the greatest height it had previously attained.

But the danger passed away, and since then the plague has served as a subject chiefly for the pens of doctors of medicine, antiquaries, and compilers of encyclopædias.

The bibliography of the plague may be classified as follows :

1. Proclamations and orders.
2. Medical works.
3. Theological works.
4. General literature, *i.e.*, ballads, broadsides, poems, pamphlets, tracts, and works of fiction.
5. Advertisements and bills of mortality.

I have put the proclamations and orders first, not because of their importance, but because they were issued at the very first whisper of an outbreak. Not only were there regal proclamations issued throughout the realm, but also municipal proclamations

promulgated in the various towns and cities by the commands of the corporations.

In addition to these, orders were issued by command of the Houses of Parliament and by the ecclesiastical authorities.

Unfortunately, this class of document was very quickly destroyed, and few copies of the originals are to be found now. Some are preserved in the collection of Mr. Humphrey Dyson, Clerk to the Parliament, and Public Notary of the City of London, which was published in the year 1618. They all relate to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the earliest being 1562. In the library of Queen's College, Oxford, are two volumes lettered "Proclamations 1500-1640," but there is nothing in them relative to the plague earlier than the eighteenth of Elizabeth. Happily, however, the text of many of the lost documents is preserved in the archives of the City of London and other large towns.

Stripped of their conventional and semi-legal language, there is a good deal to be learnt from these roughly-printed broadsides. They furnish the most conclusive evidence of the prevalence of the plague, when no other testimony is forthcoming; they reflect truthfully the panic that seized all classes, from the monarch on the throne downwards; and they record many strange customs that were in vogue at these times. And what a picture they present to us! Business, pleasure, even individual liberty, fell under the ban of proclamation.

They endeavoured to imprison the infected in their own houses. They forbade all fairs and closed all theatres, thus stopping trade and casting a darker gloom over the plague-stricken locality. They closed the Courts of Law and the Houses of Parliament, and forbade any access to the royal Court, unless the nature of the business brooked no denial. They appointed fast-days and days of thanksgiving.

These proclamations were supplemented by a book of orders, published by royal authority, in which the sanitary measures to be adopted in infected places were entered into more fully. The first edition, issued in the year 1577, bore this title:

Orders thoughte meete by Her Majestie and Her Privy Council, to be executed throughout the Countie of this Realme in such Townes, etc., as are or may be hereafter inficted with the Plague. Imprinted at London by Christopher Barker. 4to (black letter).

I have not seen this edition of 1577. It is quoted by Mr. Walford, but he did not give the source of his information, and I have been unable to trace any earlier copy than that of the year 1592. These orders were, however, reprinted upon almost every recurrence

of the plague, and they were accompanied by certain advice of a medical character.

The medical works, indeed, constitute the largest, if not the most important, branch of plague literature.

There was an immense demand for these works. The sick were eager to be cured; the healthy were eager to avoid contagion. Doctors were few—so few, indeed, that during the great plague of 1665 there were only four certified physicians for the whole of London. Some fled, and others positively refused to visit infected houses. Quacks and charlatans were numerous enough, and Dr. Hodges in his *Loimologia* has left it on record that they caused almost as many deaths as the plague itself. But the number of qualified medical men was very small, and the people were thus driven to purchase medical writings.

Of these there was no lack. Every successive outbreak was accompanied by a host of such publications. Treatises written by eminent foreign physicians were translated into English and published over and over again. The most skilful physicians in this country, whether they remained at their posts or not, wrote similar works, and every empiric was ready with some "Remedy," "Preservative," or "Preventative," which was eagerly seized upon by the panic-stricken people.

Nor did the publication of this class of literature cease when the plague itself was a thing of the past. During the scare that occurred in this country in 1720, owing to the prevalence of the plague in Marseilles, the subject largely engaged the attention of medical writers, and it has continued to do so down to the present day.

Without attempting a criticism of the opinions and remedies contained in these medical writings, it may be interesting to notice the works that from time to time appear to have been especially popular.

The earliest printed book on the subject of the plague was a medical work. In the year 1480 appeared three small quarto volumes, one bearing the title:

A passing gode lityll boke, necessarye and behovefull agenst the Pestilence.

Who was the printer of this has never been ascertained. The title of the second was as follows:

Here begynneth a litle boke, the whiche traytied and rehersed many gode thynges necessarie for the infirmitie and grete sekenesse called Pestilence, the whiche often times enfecteth us, made by the moost expert Doctor in Physike, Bisshop of Arusiens in the realme of Denmark.

This has been ascribed by Dibden to the press of Machlina, and in his edition of the *Typographical Antiquities* he gives an illustration of the type employed by the printer.

The third volume—the smallest of the three, consisting of only six leaves—bears the name of Wynkyn de Worde, and has this title:

Here begynneth a treatise against Pestylence, and of the infirmities.

There seems to be no doubt that each of these was a translation of the same work—a treatise by a certain Danish Bishop named Kamicus, of whom, however, nothing seems to be known at the present day. His work served as the basis of all the medical writings published in this country up till the middle of the following century. Thus one of the most popular works of the sixteenth century—Thomas Moulton's *Mirror or Glass of Helth, for every person to loke in that will kepe their bodye from the sykenesse of the Pestilence*—was nothing more than a compilation from various writers, more especially Kamicus. Nevertheless, it became popular, and was reprinted in 1540, 1541, 1545, 1550, and 1565.

A still more popular work was Thomas Phaer's *Regiment of Life, whereunto is added a treatise of the Pestilence*.

Watts, in his *Bibliotheca Britannica*, gives the first edition as published in the year 1544. The earliest in the Bodleian is dated 1545, and the earliest in the British Museum is that for the year 1553. Subsequent editions appeared in the years 1560, 1565, 1567, 1570, 1596, and 1600.

Its author was a man of considerable parts. He studied law, and wrote a book of precedents. He contributed to that notable work the *Mirror for Magistrates*; and when he finally adopted medicine as his profession, he wrote several valuable works in addition to the above.

I cannot turn away from the medical writers of the sixteenth century without a word or two about William Bulleyn.

In 1558 he published *A New Booke entituled the Gouvernement of Healthe. . . . Whereunto is added a sufferain Regiment against the Pestilence* (N.D., London, 8vo). The British Museum Library has no copy, but there is one in the Bodleian, and some account of the volume is given in Stephen's *Dictionary of National Biography*. A second edition appeared in 1595.

In the year 1564 he published another work, also in the form of a dialogue, entitled, *A dialogue, bothe pleasaunt and pietifull, wherein is a godlie regiment against the Fever Pestilence, with a consolation*

and comfort against death. Imprinted at London by John Kingston. Small 8vo.

The first edition of this work is rare, only one copy—that in the Britwell Collection—being known. Other editions appeared in 1569, 1573, and 1578.

This book stands out from other medical writings of the period, its prescriptions being wrapped up in a mantle of humorous anecdote and sharp satire.

At the threshold of the seventeenth century stands the name of Thomas Lodge, poet and dramatist, as the author of a medical treatise on the plague—a work by no means the worst of its kind. But the principal writer during the severe outbreaks of 1603 and 1625 was Dr. Francis Hering, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. His *Certaine Rules, Directions, or Advertisements, etc.*, first published in 1603, contained much sound and practical advice regarding the cleansing of the streets and keeping the body free from contagion. To the work was appended "A Caveat to those that weare about their neckes im poisoned Amulets as a preservative from the plague." This caveat, or warning, he followed up the next year by *A Modest Defence of the Caveat given to the wearers of Amulettes*. This practice of wearing amulets was a very common one, and there doubtless should be other writings on the subject; but these are all I have been able to find, though Hering himself, in his *Modest Defence*, speaks of an ancient physician who had maintained his opinions by "public writing."

Of the Great Plague in London in 1665 Nathaniel Hodges' work is the most authentic history. It was first published in Latin in the year 1672, and afterwards translated by John Quiney, M.D., in the year 1720, under the title of *Loimologia*.

It is remarkable not only for its graphic account of the state of the city during that awful time, but for its medical notes, the result of daily contact with the infected; for its author was one of the four physicians appointed by the corporation to attend the sick, a duty which he discharged faithfully and fearlessly.

Dr. Mead's publication in 1720 gave rise to a considerable amount of controversy, his opinions being hotly assailed by a host of other writers, some of whom were medical men, like himself.

At the same time, the work had a large sale, no less than seven editions being printed in one year, and two others subsequently.

Since that time there have been many eminent writers upon this subject—witness the names of Bascome, Hird, Richardson, and Payne—but, naturally enough, their writings partake of a historical,

theoretical, and retrospective character. By the aid of modern science they strive to probe the causes and nature of that terrible epidemic; and assuredly their work is of the greatest value, for it will enable future generations to understand better the diseases which have periodically decimated nations.

Passing on to consider the theological branch of plague literature, we find it running the medical branch very close as regards the number of works issued.

Special prayers, compiled by the Archbishops, were printed by royal command, and circulated throughout the land. The sermons preached upon the appointed fast-days were duly printed, as well as others upon the same subject preached at other times. Earnest treatises were written by eminent divines, both orthodox and Non-conformist, and tracts of a controversial character had a large sale. Besides these, there were a host of minor works, issued with such fanciful titles as "Spiritual Preservatives" or "Divine Antidotes."

The sermons were long and heavy, and the treatises still longer and still heavier. The Divine Wrath theory was the keynote of them all. England's sins were likened to those of the children of Israel in the wilderness, when the Almighty smote them with pestilence, and 14,000 of them died. London was likened to the city of Nineveh in the days of Jonah the prophet. Before human efforts could avail to check the progress of the epidemic, there must be an entire renunciation of sin, and heartfelt repentance must take its place; then only would the plague cease. The people were exhorted to remember former judgments of a similar nature, and to look around them at the desolation on every side, and to amend their lives before it was too late. Such was the burden of the discourses delivered from the pulpit and the treatises displayed upon the book-stalls, with this difference—that the treatises were ten times the length of the sermons. Divided and subdivided into numerous headings, and plentifully garnished with quotations from Holy Writ, these works reached ponderous proportions, and it speaks well for the mental capabilities of the people that they should ever have found purchasers, much less readers. Some of these treatises bore strange and startling titles, as, for instance, *The Arke of Noah*, etc., by James Godskall, 1603; *Solomon's Pest Howse, or Toure Royal*, etc., by J. D., 1625; *God's Terrible Voice in the City*, by T. Vincent, 1666.

In this division of plague literature occurs one of the rare instances of a work printed at a provincial press. It was entitled: *An Homilye to be used in the tyme of pestylence*, and was printed at the

press of John Oswen, at Worcester, in the year 1553. Its author, the famous Bishop Hooper, shortly afterwards suffered martyrdom at Oxford.

Here also is a work relating to a provincial plague. In the year 1636 there was a severe outbreak of plague in London, and the contagion was carried, probably by sea, to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where the mortality was so terrible that in a few months no less than six thousand of the inhabitants were swept away. In the following year Dr. Robert Jenison, who then held a living in the town, published a work with the following title: *Newcastle's Call to her Neighbour and Sister Townes and Cities throughout the land, etc.*, etc., 1637.

It was a religious treatise of the class already mentioned, but it also contained an interesting narrative of the outbreak in the town, and several useful references to the plague in London in the year 1625.

Another form of religious publication popular in times of plague consisted of broadside sheets covered with prayers and mock prescriptions, and this brings me to the consideration of what is without doubt the most interesting branch of plague literature.

The voice that speaks through it out of the all-pervading gloom is no longer that of the physician, attempting to alleviate the suffering, nor that of the parson, speaking the last words of consolation to the dying, or solemn words of warning from the pulpit. It is the voice of the panic-stricken multitude as they fly hither and thither, seeking a place of refuge; and it speaks in ballad and broadside, in poem and tract, even in fictitious narrative, a grim and pathetic utterance, yet, so strong is human nature, not without a ring of humour in it.

An event so momentous as the plague was certain to become the theme of the ballad-maker. Unfortunately, this class of publication, like that of proclamations, was destroyed in large quantities, so that few have survived until the present day. Indeed, after most diligent search in our chief libraries and careful inquiry amongst those best acquainted with ballad-lore, only two plague ballads have I heard of. These, I believe, are in the possession of the Rev. J. W. Ebsworth, editor of the Ballad Society, but I have not seen them.

Happily, though the works themselves are for the most part gone, the titles of many of them are preserved in the registers of the Worshipful Company of Stationers. Yet even these records are incomplete. In no instance is there any clue to the authorship of the ballads entered, and in very rare instances is there a note of the tunes to which they were set. Again, during the most deadly months

of some plague years, all entries in the registers entirely ceased, pointing to the probability that the Hall was shut up and the members of the guild dispersed in consequence of its violence. Nor did death spare the printers any more than other classes of the community, and many businesses changed hands at such times. It is therefore clear that, considerable as the number of entries of these plague ballads is, many more were probably published of which all record has perished. In the absence of the documents themselves, these titles afford the only index to the nature of those old plague ballads. They are twofold in character. Some are unmistakably plague ballads; others can only be so classed upon indirect evidence. For instance, in the year 1593 a license was granted to Thomas Creed, the printer, to publish a ballad entitled: *The Cuntreyman's sorrowe to see the tearme kept at Saint Albons.*

Now, in that year the plague was so severe in London that the Michaelmas Term had been adjourned to Saint Albans. It has already been mentioned that at such times the citizens hastily fled into the country, and it can readily be believed that they were anything but welcome visitors. The "Cuntreyman's Sorrowe," without doubt, arose from past experiences. He knew very well that, if the term was adjourned, the plague must be severe, and that an exodus of people from the city would immediately take place and spread the contagion far and wide. This, then, may safely be taken as a plague ballad. There are instances, however, in which the connection is more remote. Thus in 1583 two ballads were licensed entitled *Remember thy Ende*; and *A Passing Bell to Call us to minde*. The mournful character of these titles, coupled with the fact that the plague had been rife in various parts of England for some months, points to the probability of their having reference to it.

Amongst these extracts from the Stationers' registers will be found three of a unique character, referring to a plague in the city of Norwich in the year 1597, and they are the only instance of ballads relating to provincial plagues.

Of an entirely different character to the ballads just noticed were the old plague broadsides. The student of curious literature may go far before he discovers anything to equal them. Their grim woodcuts and ghastly borders, their doggerel verse, statistics of mortality, their prayers and mock prescriptions and medical remedies, have a fascination about them which it is difficult to resist. The few here noticed are preserved in the British Museum Library. How many more of these extraordinary productions are hidden away in the dusty corners of private libraries?

London's Lord have mercy upon us, etc., published in the year 1636, deserves notice for one or two reasons. To begin with, it is a very good specimen of old broadside literature, and then it has been partially reproduced in the Somers Tracts. Under the title was a woodcut representing a burial-ground outside the city, over which hovers the Angel of Death. In this burial-ground are two open graves, a corpse laid on the ground, and three figures kneeling in an attitude of prayer. In the foreground is what appears to be a coach conveying citizens from the city, but it may be intended for the dead-cart. Near by is a skeleton, holding in its hand an hour-glass. The centre of the sheet is filled up with a poem in rhyming couplets, in which reference is made to the plagues of 1625 and 1630, and to the price of hay in the preceding year, concluding with an exhortation to the citizens to forsake their sins. Beneath this is a lengthy prayer. The outer columns are filled with statistics of mortality in each of the five plagues referred to, and an approved medicine. The whole is surrounded by a black border, wherein are depicted skulls, crossbones, and winding-sheets. At the foot of the prayer are the words "Written by H.C.," but whether they refer to the prayers only or to the whole sheet there is no evidence to show. The initials have been said to stand for Humphrey Crouch, the ballad-maker, but upon this point considerable doubt exists.

This broadside was reprinted with some alterations during the Great Plague of 1665. For "five modern plagues" was substituted "~~seven~~ modern plagues," the sixth in the years 1637 and 1638, the seventh "this present yeare 1665."

In some copies both the poem and the prayer were omitted, but in others the poem was retained with a slight alteration of one line, which in the original ran thus :

"When sixe yeares since a little plague God sent ;"

altered in the 1665 copies to :

"Seventeen years since," etc.

The prayer, however, was generally omitted, its place being filled with additional statistics, a "Remedy," and a "Posset Drink."

The extracts given from this broadside in the Somers Tracts consist only of the statistics. No mention is made of the poem or the prayer, nor is there any hint given as to its authorship.

Amongst the broadsides of a religious character may here be noticed *London's Loud Cryes to the Lord by prayer*, printed in 1665, and remarkable for the more than usually gruesome character of the border that surrounded it. It was adorned with a woodcut similar to that described above, but with one or two additions.

Besides the coach in the foreground, is a sedan chair and two bearers, while in the top left-hand corner are the words, "O London, Repent, Repent." The body of the sheet is occupied with a very lengthy prayer, and statistics of the mortality in various preceding plagues.

But the plague did not serve as a theme only for the ballad-monger and compiler of broadsides. Poets and dramatists wrote of it. Thomas Nashe, usually a humorous writer, wrote in 1600 a play called *Summer's Last Will and Testament*; John Davies, of Hereford, whose lines have long since been consigned to oblivion, described the plague of 1603 in a poem called *The Triumph of Death* published in 1609, and dedicated to two ladies, the daughters of the Earl of Northumberland. The terrible outbreak in London in the year 1625 inspired Thomas Brewer to write his *London like Ninevah in Sackcloth*, and some of the best lines in that poem have been printed in the publications of the Chetham Society.

Another who sang of this mournful subject was John Taylor, the water-poet, to whose pen nothing seemed to come amiss. His descriptions are vigorous if his verse is rude, and his *Fearful Summer*, as he called it, published also in 1625, was sufficiently popular to call for a reprint during the outbreaks of 1636 and 1665. George Wither's *Britain's Remembrances*, 1628, also dealt with the outbreak of 1625, and is well known.

That so serious an event as the plague should have been used as a weapon of satire, or for wits to break their jests upon, might well seem incredible. But amongst the pamphlets and tracts which were issued at those seasons are several that show that such was the case. *The Plague at Westminster* was the title of a satirical pamphlet published during the Civil Wars and directed against the Rump, and it was not the only publication of the kind. At the end of Dekker's *Wonderful Year*, 1603, is a series of tales, designed, as the author tells us, to serve as a "mery epilogue to a dull play." These tales are of a ghastly character, and the humour that Dekker puts into the narration causes a shudder rather than a smile.

But perhaps the most extraordinary work to be met with in the literature of the plague is a little volume printed in 1637, and entitled *London's Vacation and the Countrey's Terme*, by H. C., and preserved in the British Museum. It consisted of a series of short tales or anecdotes in verse, and their character may very fairly be gathered from the following summary :

1. "The Relation of a man buried in S. Sepulchre's Churchyard."
2. "Of the manne that reviv'd again in St. George's Fields."
3. "A True Relation of certain men that rob'd a Hosiers shoppe

in the new Towne, neare St. Martin's Lane, putting the man's goods into a coffin."

4. "Of three youngsters, that presumed to rob an orchard, and found themselves sick when the master of it came to them. With a moral."

5. "A Strange and true Report of a Gentleman, riding into the Country, finding himself not well, and what chanced to him on the way."

6. "Of one that lost in his Travel two bands wrapped in a napkin."

7. "Of one, that lay unburied four dayes, after he was dead, being of the sicknesse."

8. "The bellman's Call on Thursday morning."

9. "London's Lord Have mercy upon us."

J. P. Collier, who noticed this work in his *Bibliographical Account*, conjectured that the materials of it were hastily collected and hastily put together for the purpose of securing a temporary sale during the prevalence of infection. It was certainly a very curious production, and shows a good deal more humour than Dekker's *Wonderful Year*. It was preceded by a woodcut illustrating most of the scenes spoken of in the work. Collier put the authorship of this work down to Henry Climsell, who, he said, was a well-known writer of ballads in the reigns of James and Charles I. But if this be so, it is a very strange thing that not a single specimen of his work is to be met with in any of our large libraries. On the other hand, there are numbers of ballads, etc., preserved from the pen of Humphrey Crouch, and it is therefore much more probable that he was the author of *London's Vacation*.

The flight of the citizens and their treatment at the hands of the country, was a constant subject of attack and ridicule on the part of the pamphleteers. The departure of the clergy in particular was severely handled, and one of the tracts published during the Plague of 1665, entitled, *A Pulpit to be Let*, had a very large sale, and is referred to by several contemporary writers.

In fictitious narrative, Defoe's *Journal of the Plague Year* takes the first place. The work has been frequently reprinted, and is sufficiently well known to make any comment on it here unnecessary. One thing, however, must be said, and that is that its author must have been well acquainted with the literature of the plague. Harrison Ainsworth's *Old St. Paul's* is another work founded upon the plague.

Of recent writings upon this subject the most valuable and interesting are Cornelius Walford's *Statistical Chronology of Plagues and*

Pestilences, 1884; Dr. J. F. Payne's article "Plague" in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*; and Dr. Jessopp's article upon "The Black Death in East Anglia," published in the *Nineteenth Century* a few years back.

The remaining classes of plague literature—advertisements and bills of mortality—may be dismissed very briefly. Each carries its character written upon its face. The first plague advertisements appeared in the public prints in the year 1665. They were inserted in any part of the paper—very often as part of the news, as, for instance, in the case of Dr. Inard's advertisement, in the month of August. For the most part, these advertisements related to quack remedies, such as sixty years before Dekker had seen posted all over the town, "like a fencer's challenge." They were fantastic in title and exorbitant in price; and although their virtues were set forth at great length, they were unable in the end to save their authors from destruction. Some of these advertisements, however, will be found of more interest—such, for instance, as those relating to the publication of books, the shutting up of inns, and such-like.

Bills of mortality seem to have had their rise from the certificates of health forwarded by the chief magistrates of the principal towns to the Privy Council; and this practice is found in vogue as early as the reign of Henry VII. The printed bills of mortality were issued weekly by the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks. They consisted of a simple sheet, upon which was printed the names of the various diseases and the number of those that had died of each, both within and without the liberties of the city.

The value of these documents, however, is very small; no reliance whatever can be placed upon their figures. In spite of the spirited defence of Mr. Bell, clerk to the said worshipful company, who in 1665 attempted to prove that they were faithfully and truly kept, there is not the least doubt that they were wilfully and systematically falsified. This was done, no doubt, with the best intentions. A rumour that the plague was about was sufficient to empty the town.

To prevent or delay this event was the object with which false returns were issued. But it is altogether idle to deny that they were so falsified; in fact, the system of fraud had been begun as early as the reign of Elizabeth. In a proclamation issued on November 14, 1578, adjourning the term, occurs this passage:

"Her Majestie being also credibly informed that the certificate which Her Majestie receiveth weekly from her said citie of London, is not so sincerely, truely and wholly certified, as in trueth it should be, but the number of those that die of the plague, *is made lesse than*

they are, by the corruption and indirect dealing of some inferior minister, to Her Majestie's great offence, is therefore minded," etc., etc.

Again, Dr. Jenison in his *Newcastle's Call*, speaking of the plague in London in 1625, said: "Before all was done, it became the greatest that any man living could remember, and greater, I take it than their general bill for the year would make it, unless you will allow above 18,000 to die (in plague time) of ordinary diseases in one year."

The fact is that, added to the anxiety of the authorities to make the outbreaks seem less severe than they were, there must have been very great difficulty in getting together any return at all.

So great was the dread of having the "handwriting of death" set upon the house-door, that every possible precaution was taken to conceal the outbreak of the terrible malady in a house. Those who died were sometimes carried out and buried in the fields by night; others were interred in the gardens or yards of the houses. Of these the parish clerk could have no record, and in such an appalling outbreak as that of the year 1665, which must to a certain extent have paralyzed the institutions of the authorities, the number of unrecorded burials must have been very great.

Nevertheless, these documents are not useless. They furnish the historian with an idea of the mortality during the various outbreaks.

In conclusion, I may say that both the British Museum and the Guildhall libraries contain large collections of plague literature, the City library, indeed, possessing many tracts and pamphlets not to be found in the older collections. To the Bodleian I am not indebted for much, possibly because my acquaintance with its treasures is limited to the pages of its catalogue.

Many of my notes are derived from the private collection of Dr. F. J. Payne, of Wimpole Street, to whom my thanks are due for his courtesy in allowing me access to it.

HENRY R. PLOMER.

The Bibliothèque de La Providence.

EASTWARD and ever eastward, leaving far behind the great Art Library at Kensington, passing by the countless treasures of the British Museum, and journeying even beyond the noble collection of books at Guildhall, I ask my readers to accompany me to a library, modest indeed in the number of its volumes, but yielding to few in the beauty and historical associations of the building in which they have found a home.

The Bibliothèque de La Providence is 'probably not known, even by name, to many besides those who have aided in its formation, and it has occurred to me that a short account of it may for that very reason be not unacceptable in the pages of a magazine specially devoted to libraries and everything appertaining to them.

The French Hospital, or "La Providence" (to use the name formerly given to it by those to whom it afforded the welcome shelter of a home in a strange land), owes its origin to M. de Gastigny, a French Protestant refugee in the service of the Prince of Orange, who left by his will the sum of £1,000 for the purpose of founding a hospital, or hospice, for his necessitous fellow-countrymen and co-religionists in England. Others were not slow in contributing to the good work, and in 1718 a Royal Charter of Incorporation was obtained for the Hospital for Poor French Protestants and their Descendants in Great Britain.

The original hospital was in the parish of St. Luke, but after a lapse of years it was found desirable to abandon it, and in 1866 the present beautiful building was erected in a more open situation close to Victoria Park, and in its own extensive garden, from the designs of Mr. Robert Lewis Roumieu, one of the directors at that time. In this new "Providence" is housed the library of which I propose to give a brief description.

The first thing to be remarked is that the collection has been formed almost entirely by donations of books from the directors and their friends, the additions by purchase being necessarily very few, whilst another noteworthy peculiarity is the large proportion of

privately-printed books contained in it. These, as may naturally be anticipated, are for the most part works of a genealogical character, treating of the Huguenot families in France in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and of their descendants, not only in the United Kingdom, but in the various Continental states, in the British colonies, and in America.

Although containing several very scarce and valuable books, the library is not mainly composed of such as are prized chiefly for their rarity, the aim of its founders being to make it a good working collection for the student of Huguenot history and genealogy. But, needless to say, this by no means involves the exclusion of rare books, rather, perhaps, the contrary, and the following may be taken haphazard as instances of several different classes :

An unusually fine specimen of Morland's *The History of the Evangelical Churches of the Valleys of Piemont*, London, 1658, 4to, containing the dedication to Cromwell, the map, and the portrait, the three requisites to a perfect copy which are so seldom to be found united. This copy is additionally interesting from having apparently been the author's own, his name, "Samuel Morland," and the date, "1658," being written in it.—A volume, in small quarto, of exceedingly scarce tracts relating to Church government in England in the seventeenth century; amongst them are pamphlets setting forth the views of ministers in the counties of Lancaster, Worcester, Cumberland, Westmoreland, Essex, Southampton, Norfolk, and Cork. Many of these are not in the British Museum, and are *presque introuvables* in any collection.—A copy of one of the few books printed at Herford, in Westphalia, viz., Jean de Labadie's *Traité du Soi*, 1672, 12mo, a work of very considerable rarity. Also the *Presages de la Decadence des Empires*, with the dubious imprint "Mekelbourg, 1688."—A fine specimen of the Rouen press is the *Inventaire de l'Histoire de Normandie*, 1646, 4to, and the *Histoire du dernier Siècle de La Rochelle*, 1648, 12mo, by Pierre Mervault, may be mentioned as a scarce book also printed at Rouen. Another little volume of military history of later date is Devize, *The History of the Siege of Toulon, with a most exact and curious plan of Toulon never before published. Done into English by Mr. A. Boyer*, London, 1708, small 4to, a translation of very uncommon occurrence, especially with the plan intact as in the present copy.

A bibliographer can scarcely embark on a more hopeless undertaking than that of forming a complete list of all the multifarious unacknowledged writings of Daniel Defoe; but he would probably be safe in ascribing to that author of many fictions the fictitious

Minutes of the Negotiations of Monsr. Mesnayer at the Court of England, of which the first edition (London, 1717, 8vo) has long been at the French Hospital, though the Bodleian did not possess a copy until so recently as 1886. Readers of the *Reliquia Wottonianæ* will be glad to have their attention drawn to Sir Henry Wotton's *The State of Christendom; or, A most Exact and Curious Discovery of many Secret Passages and Hidden Mysteries of the Times*, London, 1637, 4to, whilst a passing mention must be made of Strada, *A Generall Historie of the Netherlands. Newly renewed, corrected, and supplied with sundrie necessarie observations omitted in the first impression. By Ed. Grimeston, Sergeant-at-Armes. Continued from the year 1608 till the year of our Lord 1627, by William Crosse, Mr. of Arts. The second impression.* London, 1627, folio. Amongst the seventeenth-century French books in the library, one of the rarest is *La Discipline des Églises Réformées de France. Ou l'Ordre par lequel elles sont conduites & gouvernées: Avec vn recueil des Observations & Questions sur la plus part des Articles d'icelle, tiré des Actes des Synodes Nationaux.* (Sans lieu) M.DC.LV., small 4to, a detailed account of which is given in the *Bulletin* of the Société de l'Histoire du Protestantisme Français for September, 1886; also a volume of Arrests, Declarations, and Edicts, among which the *Edit du 22 Oct. 1685*, is an exceedingly scarce specimen of the Marseilles press of that period.

Dear to all who love the humour and pathos of English literature is the name of Oliver Goldsmith, yet few, perhaps, even of those who love him best would recognise in "James Willington" the author of *The Vicar of Wakefield* and *She Stoops to Conquer*. But one of the gems of the Bibliothèque de La Providence is the little book in two duodecimo volumes bearing on its title that pseudonym under which Goldsmith issued this his first published work. *The Memoirs of a Protestant condemned to the Gallies of France for his Religion. . . . Translated by James Willington*, London, 1758, contain the Memoirs of Jean Marteilhe originally published at Rotterdam in 1717, and form one of the scarcest books printed in England during the eighteenth century—so scarce, indeed, that the British Museum was without a copy until it obtained one at the sale of the late Mr. Halliwell-Phillips's collection. The copy at La Providence is a singularly fine one in very neat and suitable, though not the original, binding.

In 1887 the directors issued the first printed catalogue of the library, entitled *Bibliothèque de La Providence*, and compiled by the present writer. This was composed of some 500 titles, the books being entered, as far as possible, under the authors' names in alpha-

betical order, and a classified index under subject-headings being given at the end. During the past three years, however, the accessions have been so numerous that a new edition of the catalogue¹ has lately been printed, the library containing on the 1st December, 1890, 983 works in 1,084 volumes, and 70 unbound tracts. The new catalogue, which is on the same principle as the former, is, of course, considerably larger, and has been in several ways improved. The books themselves, too, have been entirely rearranged, and new press-marks have been given to them and printed opposite each entry in the catalogue. A very minute division and subdivision has seemed needless in a collection which is at present so limited, and the following classification has been adopted as the simplest and most efficient: I. History—(i.) General History of France and other countries; (ii.) History of the Huguenots in France; (iii.) History of the Huguenots in the United Kingdom and British possessions abroad; (iv.) History of the Huguenots in the United States; (v.) History of the Huguenots in other countries; (vi.) History of the Vaudois. II. Biography, including Church Registers. III. Theology—(i.) The Bible and parts thereof; (ii.) Liturgies and Hymnals; (iii.) Doctrinal and Devotional Works. IV. Transactions of Societies and Periodicals. V. Works of Fiction based on incidents in the History of the Reformation. VI. Books not falling under any of the above heads.

Small as this library may appear, it has already been most helpful to many engaged in studying the period of history to which it chiefly relates, and the genealogy of the numerous Huguenot families settled in England and elsewhere. The Bibliothèque de La Providence has not seldom furnished to foreign inquirers information which they had failed to find even in France itself, and if the additions to it are as numerous and important during the next few years as they have been in the past, its value and usefulness will become more and more apparent. This brief notice of the library is necessarily confined to the printed books, its principal feature; but it also contains several MSS. of interest and importance, and I must not conclude without mentioning that it possesses a growing collection of engravings and medals illustrative of Huguenot history, which form not the least attraction on the walls and in the cabinets of La Providence.

REGINALD S. FABER.

¹ Bibliothèque de La Providence: Catalogue of the Library of the French Hospital, Victoria Park Road, London. By Reginald Stanley Faber. With an Introduction by Arthur Giraud Browning, F.S.A. Revised and enlarged edition. London, 1890. 8vo. (Only 300 copies, privately printed, of which 50 are on large paper.)

How Libraries were Described a Hundred and Fifty Years Ago.

I RECENTLY came across a work published in 1739, and professing to be "A Critical and Historical Account of all the Celebrated Libraries in Foreign Countries, as well Ancient as Modern," which appeared to me to be of sufficient interest to the members of the Library Association to justify me in drawing their attention to it. It purports to be written "by a Gentleman of the Temple," whose identity I have been unable to discover, and contains, in addition to the main subject, "General Reflections upon the Choice of Books, and the Method of furnishing Libraries," being, as its author assures us on the title-page, "A Work of great Use to all Men of Letters."

As this little book contains within the limits of 206 duodecimo pages chapters devoted to the libraries of ancient Egypt, Phoenicia, Chaldea, Ethiopia, China, Greece, Rome, and almost every country of modern Europe, it will be at once apparent that the author's treatment of his subject is comprehensive rather than exhaustive. Nevertheless, he finds space for the introduction of a good deal of curious matter which does not strictly belong to the subject, as when he considers it necessary to devote nine pages to the discussion of the question whether books and writing were in use among the Israelites prior to the time of Moses. After this it is somewhat surprising to find that less than three pages suffice for a description "of the Libraries that have been founded since the barbarous Ages"; but on proceeding further this apparent curtailment of the narrative is corrected by a succession of chapters treating respectively of the libraries in Denmark, Holland, Germany, France, Italy, and other countries, including Turkey, with its "Mahometan and Christian Libraries." The decorations of the Vatican Library naturally receive more attention than the books which they help to conceal, and it is comparatively satisfactory to find no less than sixteen lines devoted to the collections of the Sorbonne.

Speaking of the King's Library at Paris, now known as the Bibliothèque Nationale, our author says: "I will not amuse the Reader with a Detail of everything singular or extraordinary in that Collection, in regard to the great Expence of Time which must be employ'd in such an Undertaking," but he gives us the information that it contains above 40,000 printed books and 10,000 manuscripts in Greek, Latin, and Arabic alone. Attached to the Library of St. Ambrose at Milan "there is a Librarian who is allow'd a Deputy, and whose Office it is to hand such Books as are wanted, and to wipe off the Dust."

This "Gentleman of the Temple" repeatedly displays his legal training by the candid and impartial manner in which he sets out the evidence on both sides of several disputed questions, leaving it to his readers, as though to a jury, to form their own opinions on the facts placed before them. But he has no hesitation in other cases in pronouncing judgment in a way which he evidently considers to be final, as, for instance, when he comes to deal with "the Manner of placing Books in such Order, as that they may be resorted to upon any Emergency, without Difficulty, otherwise they can produce but little Advantage either to the Owners or others." Many sneers having lately been levelled at that kind of librarian who is generally known as "practical," I take some little pleasure in laying before the readers of *The Library* the views of a gentleman who is in no danger of falling under the somewhat mysterious stigma which that well-worn adjective is supposed to convey.

"The natural Method of placing Books and Manuscripts is," he tells us, "to range them in separate Classes or Apartments, according to the Science, Art, or Subject, of which they treat." But "as several Authors have treated of various Subjects, it may be difficult to place them under any particular Class. . . . The most adviseable Method then is, to range them under the Head of Miscellaneous Authors, with proper References to each Subject." At this point it is not quite clear whether our author is speaking of shelf-classification or of a classified catalogue; but he goes on to render his explanation "more intelligible by an example," which I will quote in full: "Suppose, then, we would know the Names of the celebrated Historians of the Ancients; nothing more is necessary than to inspect the Class under which the Historians are placed, and so or other Faculties. By this Management, one Set of miscellaneous Authors will be sufficient, and may be resorted to with as much Ease and Expedition as those who have confined themselves to one Subject."

I leave this elucidation to speak for itself, and will now give a few quotations from other parts of the book which seem to be illustrative of the dilettante spirit in which the office of the book-hunter was regarded in the days of the early Georges. The elementary question of what may, or may not, be considered a library is resolved by the statement that "no Collection of Books has a Right to be put into the Rank of Libraries, except it contains a great Number of Volumes, and is distributed into certain Classes, to avoid Confusion. But as it may be difficult for a private Person to have everything that is necessary to form a Library; it is sufficient for him to make a Collection of such choice Books as are in Esteem with the judicious." If I understand this deliverance rightly, it is the earliest instance I have met with of the assertion of the principle that a public library should be an universal store-house, where everything in the shape of a book may find shelter, the problems of selection being left to the solution of individuals.

When our author comes to speak of the choice of books, we learn that the libraries of Alexander Severus and Melancthon respectively contained no more than four volumes, two instances of successful compression which are supposed to illustrate the trite remark that "we must not form a Judgment of Books either by their Bulk, or Numbers, but by their intrinsic Merit and Usefulness."

Notwithstanding the hopes held out by the title-page of this curiously disappointing little work, we find the general reflections on the choice of books and the method of furnishing libraries singularly barren and devoid of anything like exact information, the author generally contenting himself with suggesting the difficulties which attend the performance of these tasks, and leaving his readers to deal with them by the light of their own wisdom. He thus sums up the main question: "In the Choice of Books Regard must be had to the Edition, Character, Paper, and Binding." Upon the first three points we get no further information, but "as to the Price, it is difficult to give any positive Directions," as it "often depends more upon the Caprice of the Buyer, than the intrinsic Merit of the Work; some piquing themselves upon the Possession of Things from no other Consideration than their exorbitant Price." It is, I suppose, unlikely that we shall ever get rid of this old complaint against the wealthy collector, and I am not at all sure that it is a real grievance to many persons, certainly not to the dealers.

In making these hasty selections during a hurried perusal of this interesting little volume, I have been animated by no desire to treat the author with disrespect, for his intentions are clearly of the best,

and had he lived in these days, he would doubtless have been a prominent member of The Library Association, but it seemed to me that the book was a very good illustration of the way in which libraries were regarded a hundred and fifty years ago, and that it might be worth while to compare it with the modern idea which is now becoming so familiar to us all.

In the one case, libraries are evidently regarded as being useful only to the scholar or the antiquarian, and as affording an agreeable distraction to such persons of wealth and taste as choose to become collectors, though not necessarily readers, of what the auctioneers call "literary rarities." To-day, on the other hand, it is almost universally allowed that a library (and a good one, too) is becoming more and more a necessity of existence. Those reading habits, which the spread of education and the whole tendency of modern life are doing so much to develop, have now reached a point at which they cannot longer be satisfied with such books only as a man can buy or borrow from his friends, but imperatively demand a regular supply of daily mental food, such as a large and growing library alone can provide. A library is no longer thought of as a mere collection of books, but is expected to exhibit to the critical and exacting public who use it an orderly arrangement, a good catalogue, a helpful and efficient service, and all those amenities which spring from an intelligent and capable administration.

LAWRENCE INKSTER.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Record of Bibliography.

Les livres modernes qu'il convient d'acquérir. Par Henri Bouchot, du Cabinet des Estampes. Paris: Bibliothèque des Connaissances utiles aux Amis des Livres, E. Rouveyre, 1891, 12mo, pp. 100. Price 6 fr.

Monsieur Bouchot's little volumes follow quickly one on the heels of another, and hit the taste of the day so successfully that they are announced as out of print before ever the somewhat tardy chroniclers of the weekly *Bibliographie* have recorded their publication. Such was the happy fate of the book before us, and yet it is but a poor piece of work, and chiefly of interest as marking once more the different lines along which collectors pursue their hobby in France and England. M. Bouchot writes of *Les livres modernes qu'il convient d'acquérir*, and yet there is not a trace or tincture of literary criticism in his whole treatise. The quality of the paper, the size of the type, the skill of the printer, whether other illustrations than wood-engravings and etchings are allowable, what books should be illustrated and what not—these are the themes on which he discourses, and on little else. Now, we have long known that in the eyes of a French collector a famous binder is a much more important person than the greatest author who ever lived. If anyone doubts this, a glance at the prices quoted in M. Jules Le Petit's *Éditions originales d'écrivains français* for different copies of the same work, differing only in the fame of their binders, will soon convince his incredulity. But that not only the binder, but the illustrator, the printer, the paper-maker, should all thus take precedence of the author in making a book desirable, this surely is an inversion of right order, beside which the enthusiasm of the English small collector for the first editions of works by Mr. R. L. Stevenson or Mr. Andrew Lang becomes literary and dignified. Of course M. Bouchot distinguishes. He casts some mild scorn on the collector who buys not *sibi et amicis*, not even *sibi*, but merely for the pleasure of placing an expensive book on his shelves, where thenceforth it will repose undisturbed. Collectors are, indeed, to read, but what they read is to be very much determined for them by the business instincts of artistic publishers. We must pass, however, to the themes with which alone M. Bouchot has thought it necessary to deal, and here we shall find him saying some very sensible things. Thus he has a wise detestation for all antiquarian illustrations, save the very best:

"Des gens comme Racine, Molière, La Fontaine, n'ont aucun besoin de commentateurs graphiques.

"L'amoureux du livre choisira ces auteurs dans leurs éditions originales et n'y intercalera en aucun cas les suites d'artistes postérieurs.

"De la sorte il pourra les lire sans être détourné de sa jouissance par la vue intempestive de choses discordantes."

Charles Lamb would have applauded these views, though his delightful homeliness caused him to like those editions of Shakespeare best which had been "oftenest tumbled about and handled," and thus to prefer to the First Folio, "the common editions of Rowe and Tonson, without notes, and with *plates*, which, being so execrably bad, serve as maps or modest remembrancers to the text; and without pretending to

any supposable emulation with it, are so much better than the Shakespeare gallery *engravings*, which *did*." M. Bouchot's preference for no plates at all is not very far removed from this view, which regards them as useful only as maps. Again, he deserves hearty praise for his insistence on the converse of this theory. It is not only that old books are spoilt by pretentious modern ornament: the atrocity is even worse when the designs used by Simon Vostre, or Pigouchet, or Geoffroy Tory are employed for the decoration of, say, a novel by Zola. All this is good, and so is the advice to seek the best in every kind, and not to be afraid to prize a book, though as yet it be neither dear nor rare. If it be good, the ravages of time and the stupidity of other collectors will soon make it both the one and the other! M. Bouchot's theories are illustrated by a number of wood-engravings and other designs, chiefly taken from books recently published, though one or two, notably a charming false title for a *Vicar of Wakefield*, are examples of the fashionable craze among the wealthiest French collectors of engaging artists to enrich their copy of a celebrated work with original drawings and water-colours, which are never reproduced. The volume is thus a pretty one, and the author's style lively and amusing; but the most careful of readers will find very little to carry away from its perusal.

The Story of the Glittering Plain. Which has been also called the Land of Living Men; or, the Acre of the Undying. Written by William Morris. [Colophon:] *Here endeth the Glittering Plain, printed by William Morris at the Kelmscott Press, Upper Mall, Hammersmith, in the county of Middlesex: and finished on the 4th day of April of the year 1891. Sold by Reeves and Turner, 196, Strand, London.*

[Collation—Sigs. a-z, aa-bb, in fours, except a and bb, which have two leaves. Sig. a, blank. Sig. a₂, title-page. Sigs. b-bb, numbered pp. 1-188.]

We have paid Mr. Morris the compliment of announcing the first production of his printing-press, with the formality usually reserved for *Incunabula*, for its form is based so entirely on fifteenth-century models that we are sure it is in this way he would wish to have it treated. For the matter of the book we need only say that it tells a story which would doubtless be interesting were it not written in the English which the profane call "Wardour Street," and which is a more effectual barrier to most readers than the majority of foreign languages. But the book demands our notice as a piece of typography, as well as a piece of literature, and as to its claims in this character we may say a few words. In the first place, the new type is excellent. If our memory serve us, it is not a slavish imitation of any single Italian fount, but it reproduces the best qualities of the types used at Venice by Jenson and his contemporaries. The letters are clearly cut, are massive and dignified. Other features in the book are much less successful. The upper margin is but half an inch deep, and this gives a heavy and cramped appearance to the page. The paper also is too thin, and shows the ink through. The fashion which prevailed about 1490 of adopting a plain paragraph title, and reserving all decoration for the first page of text, has been followed, in our opinion, unwisely. The border designed for the first page—a white scroll on a black ground—is in itself handsome, but is too massive for the page. The same remark applies to the large capitals which are profusely scattered throughout the book. To the revival of the colophon, and the consequent exclusion from the title-page of the place and date of printing and publication, we make no objection, though it will

probably excite much opposition. The book is bound in excellent vellum, and provided with leather straps, which are at present much needed to prevent it flying open. The form of volume is certain to attract much attention, and though we should have preferred a less slavish following of the Italian model, we have no doubt that the Kelmscott Press will have an excellent influence in improving the taste both of publishers and of the readers for whom they cater.

A Guide to the Collector of Historical Documents, Literary Manuscripts, and Autograph Letters. By Rev. Dr. Scott and Samuel Davey, F.R.S.L. *London: S. J. Davey, 1891, 4to, pp. xvi., 218. With Appendices.*

What may be called the text of this handsome volume contains some more or less interesting gossip on the subject of Autographs, diluted with a large amount of pure twaddle (*e.g.*, the whole of the chapter on Fluctuation in the Value of Autographs), and disfigured occasionally by loose grammar. The description of some of the early albums, of some good examples of the practice of Grangerizing, and of the forgeries of which the too confiding Michel Chasles was the victim, may be reckoned as amongst the most interesting subjects of the gossip; but they are told with no new point, and add nothing to the value of the book. "The Guide for the Verification of Manuscripts," which should have been useful, is seriously damaged by the fact that only two of the works to which it refers are of later date than 1846, and these two were respectively published in 1862 and 1866. On the other hand, the facsimiles of the Autographs of English Celebrities, the reprint of *Wright's Court-Hand Restored*, and the facsimiles of Watermarks up to 1600, from the collection of the late Robert Lemon, of the Record Office, are all useful additions, and it is in virtue of these appendices, rather than of the text by which they are prefaced, that the work is likely to be useful.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be promptly forwarded.

ASHFORD.—At a meeting held at the Whitfeld Hall, Ashford, on April 30th, a committee was appointed to wait upon the Local Board with a request that they should take a poll on the public library question.

BOOTLE.—The Free Library and Museum Committee has had delegated to it the duty of organizing and managing a proposed Technical School, which is to be started out of the town's share of the "beer duties," which is estimated to exceed £1,900 per annum. Mr. J. J. Ogle, librarian and curator, has had the additional duties of organizing secretary placed upon him, and his salary has been advanced to £240 per annum. Mr. C. H. Hunt will act as registrar to the classes, at a salary of £20 in

addition to his salary as sub-librarian. The school will be an extension of the work hitherto carried on in the science classes at the Free Library and in the board schools, and the ordinary library funds will be relieved of charges hitherto borne to the extent of about £300 per annum.

CARLISLE.—The Free Libraries and Museum Committee of the Town Council of Carlisle held a meeting on May 6, Chancellor Ferguson in the chair, at which the plans of the new City Institute of Literature, Science, and Art, as modified by the City surveyor so as to leave Tullie House intact, were adopted.

DUBLIN.—The first annual meeting of the St. Joseph's Library Association was held in the Convent of the Sisters of Charity, on April 23, the Rev. J. Dempsey presiding. The *Freeman's Journal* says: "Looking round the well-stocked shelves of the library, one could scarcely believe that the association which brought the library together came into existence only a year ago. The one hundred books with which began the laudable effort to supply the poor inmates with useful healthful reading for their long lonely hours has now in a short twelve months swelled to 2,650 volumes, and all through the efforts of the ladies of St. Joseph's Association. Yet even this did not satisfy them, for they have further been able to keep up a supply of the daily and weekly papers and other periodical literature through the help of their friends."

DUNDEE.—Some time ago a movement was started in Dundee to present a testimonial to Mr. John Maclauchlan, Librarian, Dundee Free Library, Curator of the Museum, and Hon. Secretary of the Dundee Art Union, in recognition of the many public services he has rendered to the community outside his official duties. The proposal was taken up by a number of prominent citizens and public men, and a committee was appointed to carry out the arrangements and to collect subscriptions. So hearty a response was made that the committee has been able to hand to Mr. Maclauchlan a most handsome and valuable testimonial, in the form of a beautiful silver salver (suitably inscribed), a diamond bracelet for Mrs. Maclauchlan, and a cheque for 400 guineas. The presentation was made by the Lord Provost at a large public meeting, and including the principal citizens of Dundee. Some excellent speeches were made, and in acknowledging the gifts, Mr. Maclauchlan, in a lengthy address, gave an interesting résumé of the progress of art literature in Dundee, which was listened to with close attention and warmly received.

EDINBURGH.—The Edinburgh Public Library now contains in the reference department 22,107 volumes, and in the lending department 46,293 volumes—in all, 68,400 volumes. There are 43,078 readers on the list of the lending department, and the average number of books given out daily from the opening of the library was 2,068. No less than 15,000 copies of the catalogue have been sold.

Mr. Kinloch and Bailie Steel have given notice of the following motion: "With the view of extending the benefits of the public library, and giving increased facilities to the public in getting books, remit to the Lord Provost's committee to consider and report as to the desirability of establishing district call offices (connected by telephone with the library) at Newington, Morningside, Dalry, Stockbridge, and Leith Walk, where readers could leave the numbers for books which they desire to secure, where the books could be conveyed by delivery vans."—*Scotsman*.

INVERNESS.—A meeting of the Free Library Committee has been

held to consider the report of the sub-committee as to the position of the library. Mr. Alexander M'Kenzie presided. The sub-committee submitted a report which showed a probable surplus at the end of the financial year in September next of £150, and a further report showed that some 900 volumes were missing, and to replace them would cost £83. Mr. James Barron stated that the committee had been led to understand that only books of comparatively little interest were missing, but it had been found that whole sets of the novels of Thackeray, Scott, Dickens, and other novelists were wanting. The sub-committee recommended the purchase of 263 volumes at a cost of £46, while the librarian recommended the purchase of 234 new works. The committee resolved to set apart £100 for the purchase of books, and to provide additional magazines and newspapers for the reading-room.

LIVERPOOL.—The annual meeting of the Liverpool Library was held on Thursday, May 21st. There was a large attendance. The committee reported that they had not seen fit to appoint a librarian in the room of Mr. Wakefield, in consequence of the alteration made in Law 19 at the last annual meeting. This alteration made the appointment and dismissal of the librarian subject to the revision of a general meeting of the proprietors, and the committee being of opinion that this deprived them of all effective control over their official, preferred to carry on the library without a librarian for twelve months, and to ask the present annual meeting to rescind the alteration made last year. A very acrimonious discussion followed the reading of the report, and the committee were severely taken to task for ignoring the express wishes of a large majority of the proprietors. These were bent on carrying out the proposal made, shortly after Mr. Wakefield's resignation, that the senior assistant, Mr. John Forester, should be appointed in his place. The committee opposed this, urging that Mr. Forester was not qualified for the post, and some offence appears to have been given by a circular issued in their name, stating what they considered to be the necessary qualifications of a librarian, and disparaging Mr. Forester. Finally, Mr. T. C. Nicolas moved that Mr. John Forester be appointed librarian at a salary of £150 per annum, and after a heated dispute this was carried in opposition to the committee. We cannot help thinking that the committee have acted very weakly throughout this whole business. If they honestly believed that Mr. Forester was not qualified to be Mr. Wakefield's successor they should have appointed a librarian from outside with the least possible delay. Had they done this, it is incredible that the proprietors in favour of Mr. Forester's claims, however much they might feel annoyed, would take the extraordinary step of rescinding the committee's decision and dismissing their chief official. By conducting the library successfully for more than twelve months, nominally without a librarian, but actually by the management of Mr. Forester, they were really defeating their own ends, as this policy enabled Mr. Forester's friends to point triumphantly to that fact as a proof of his qualification. However, we trust that all dispute is now at an end, and that the new committee and the proprietors will endeavour to work harmoniously together for the welfare of an old and excellent institution. Mr. Forester has a difficult task before him, and will need all the tact and judgment he is possessed of to steer clear of difficulties under the extraordinary conditions of his appointment. We heartily wish him all success.

LONDON : BRITISH MUSEUM.—A model of the hanging or sliding book-press used to provide additional space in the library of the British Museum, shown last year at the Antwerp Exhibition, has been placed in the King's Library, and attracts much attention from visitors. It is constructed by Mr. Sparrow, locksmith to the Museum.

LONDON : BERMONDSEY.—Mr. John Frowde, librarian of the Barrow-in-Furness Free Library, and formerly of the Liverpool Free Libraries, has been appointed librarian of the Free Public Library at Bermondsey.

LONDON : BETHNAL GREEN.—Under the presidency of Mr. J. Branch, L.C.C., an adjourned conference was held on May 1st at the Pott Street School-room, Bethnal Green Road, for the purpose of considering the advisability of putting in force the Public Libraries Acts for Bethnal Green, and the possibility of co-operating in so doing with the existing Free Library in London Street. After considerable discussion, a resolution in favour of adopting the Acts was passed, and it was arranged that public meetings should be held in the various wards of the parish.

LONDON : HOLBORN.—The result of the recent voting on the Library question in this district is as follows : In favour of the adoption of the Acts, 1,172 ; against the adoption of the Acts, 717 ; in favour of the rate being limited to one halfpenny in the pound ; 1,059 ; against the rate being limited to halfpenny in the pound, 682.

LONDON : PADDINGTON.—Again the ratepayers of Paddington have declared against the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts, the result of the poll on May 6th being as under : For, 1,590 ; against, 4,528. Only a halfpenny rate was asked for to maintain and extend the public library in Warwick Road, opened since the previous poll in 1887, and hitherto supported by voluntary contributions. The voting at the preceding poll showed there were 1,652 favourable to the adoption of the Act, and 5,845 adverse. Hence fewer ratepayers took the trouble to vote now than four years ago, since which time, it was hoped, having regard to the extensive use made of the existing Paddington Public Library and the extension of the Library movement in the Metropolis generally, public sentiment had undergone a change in favour of a small compulsory rate for Library purposes.

LONDON : POPLAR.—An appeal, signed by the Bishop of Bedford and the officers of the provisional committee, is made for funds to purchase a site and erect a building for a public library for the parish of Poplar, the vote in favour of which has lately been carried by the overwhelming majority of ten to one. At least £15,000 are required for this purpose, of which £2,600 have already been promised. By its connection with the docks, representing as they do the greater part of the shipping industries of London, the claims of Poplar (including Blackwall and the Isle of Dogs) are of more than local importance. At present no institution is provided where technical or scientific books can be consulted, a fact which must put our own at a disadvantage when competing with the foreign workmen. A confident appeal is therefore made to the general public for the assistance which is so much needed. Subscriptions should be sent to the manager of the London and County Bank, East India Road, E., who will acknowledge receipt.

LONDON : ST. GILES', BLOOMSBURY.—This district has adopted the Free Libraries Acts. The return of the polling issued by Mr. Henry C. Jones, the presiding officer, shows that out of 6,826 voting papers 1,746 were in favour of the adoption of the Acts, and 876 against ; 1,920 papers were not filled up, and 1,925 were not returned. The remainder of the papers were rendered invalid by irregularities, but had they been counted they would have increased the majority in favour of a free library. The vote was also in favour of the limitation of the rate to one halfpenny in the pound.

LONDON : STREATHAM.—Through the generosity of Mr. Henry Tate, J.P., a new Public Library for the use of the inhabitants of Streatham was opened on April 17th. The Duke of Westminster, as Lord-Lieutenant of the County of London, had promised to perform the ceremony, but he was unfortunately detained at Eaton Hall by a severe cold, and his place was taken by Sir Lyon Playfair, M.P. The new building is of the Greek order of architecture, and is faced externally with Portland stone. The corridors are tiled, and the floors of the rooms are formed of wooden blocks. On the ground floor are the newspaper and magazine rooms, both of fine proportions, and decorated in a well-chosen colour scheme of lemon-yellow, white, and pale green, with dark polished wood-moulding. On the walls are some fine engravings given by Mrs. Tate. The cost of the building has been between £5,000 and £6,000, the whole of which has been defrayed by Mr. Tate, conditionally upon the parish voting a very small annual rate for maintenance. The library now contains some 6,000 books, chosen under competent supervision, and particularly convenient book and newspaper rests are provided for the comfort of the readers. Mr. Sydney R. Smith is the architect.

The opening ceremony took place in the magazine-room, which was crowded, and was presided over by the Rector of Streatham, the Rev. J. R. Nicholl, chairman of the Library Committee, who made a short statement as to the circumstances which led Mr. Tate to make his generous gift. Forty-eight years ago the population of Streatham was less than 8,000; at the present moment it is over 40,000, and still increasing. The fact that five small lending libraries have been greatly appreciated in the parish promises a future of usefulness for the new institution. Mr. Tate then, amid loud applause, formally handed over the deeds of gift to the rector, saying very briefly that he realized the value of Public Libraries for the working-classes, and was very pleased to give one to Streatham. The vote of thanks to Mr. Tate was moved by Sir Lyon Playfair, who said the one objection urged against the Library movement was the opportunities offered for reading fiction. He, however, would not discourage the taste among people who read for amusement. Relaxation as well as education was to be gained by reading, but just as sensible people choose their society and their friends, so he would say "select your books, for every book represents an author," and an author is a friend who can introduce you to all social circles and all knowledge. Sir Lyon Playfair compared in rapid review Trollope, Thackeray, Dickens, Burns, and Scott, whose works especially, he said, were ignored now by the upper classes, while the orders who frequent the public libraries show a wiser sense of choice. Poetry, too, was touched upon by him in a few brightly critical remarks, and, in answer to the question so often asked, "How shall I read?" he recommended membership of the Home Reading Union. Further votes of thanks to the chief speakers, and presentations of catalogues of the library to Sir Lyon Playfair and Mr. Tate concluded the proceedings. The *Daily Graphic* of April 18th contains sketches of the library.

LONGTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.—On May 14 an enthusiastic meeting was held in the town-hall in support of the proposal to adopt the Public Libraries Acts. The Mayor presided, and the meeting was addressed by the leading residents. The resolution was carried unanimously, and steps will be taken immediately to bring the question to the test of a poll. The population of Longton is 36,568, and the rateable value is £92,735.

MAIDENHEAD.—A public meeting has been held in this town for the purpose of discussing the question of adopting the Acts. The mayor pre-

sided, and among other speakers Mr. Greenhough, the librarian of the Reading Public Library, addressed the meeting. He described the progress and present position of the Reading Library, and urged the rate-payers to support the motion. The resolution in favour of adopting the Acts was carried by a majority of fifty to twenty-four. The mayor offered to contribute £100 towards the cost of establishing the library.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—The following is from the *Newcastle Leader* of May 7th: The Newcastle Public Library is one of the best patronized in the country, and there will now be an expectation of relief by an extension of premises, seeing that the Council has agreed to purchase adjoining ground on advantageous terms. The crowded condition of the newsroom is not the worst complaint from that quarter. An unrecorded incident is worth telling. Mr. Haggerston, the librarian, was called in the other Saturday night to a drunken intruder. On being asked to go out, he struck the librarian in the face. Mr. Haggerston kept his temper sufficiently to avoid retaliation, and, instead, reported the circumstance to the readers in the room. A number of them at once sprang to their feet, seized the man, and ran him out into the street, thus ridding the place of a nuisance and spiritedly taking the side of the librarian in a matter of order and decency.

Abstracts of Public Library Reports.

FOR STATISTICS SEE TABLE ON PAGE 248.

ABERDEEN: Librarian, A. W. ROBERTSON.—5,598 volumes have been repaired by the committee's own binder working in the library. 1,723 volumes from lending department, and 1,390 volumes from reference department, have been bound or rebound by other binders at an average cost of 11d. and 1s. 1d. per volume respectively. The work of organizing the reference department is now proceeding at a rate which leaves little doubt that with the entrance of the library into its new premises, the privileges of a well-equipped reference department, which have been so long denied to the public, will be fully established. Useful information given under heading of "Library Notanda"—a plan which could be adopted with advantage elsewhere.

BELFAST: Librarian, GEORGE H. ELLIOTT.—Some of the professors of Queen's College have helped in the selection of books. The Mayor opened the reference library on November 1. It seems strange to read in the second annual report, in reference to the death of two members of the committee, that they "were both active members for several years."

BIRMINGHAM: Librarian, J. D. MULLINS.—During the year the sanction of the Local Government Board has been obtained for borrowing the sums necessary to erect branch libraries at Spring Hill and at Bloomsbury; both are now in progress. The site for a proposed branch library at Bordesley has been acquired subject to a lease, which will expire in June, 1895. The committee congratulate their chief librarian on completing the catalogue of the reference library (see *The Library*, vol. iii., p. 26); it is advertised on the cover at £1 1s. Shakespeare students will be glad to hear that a new catalogue of the Shakespeare Library (now numbering 8,767 volumes) is in preparation, and they will earnestly hope that it will be more than a mere index. It may be noticed that the issues in 1888 exceed those in 1890 by one hundred and fourteen thousand. No statement of accounts is given this year.

BLACKBURN: Librarian, R. ASHTON.—Thirty special and extra Christmas numbers issued 695 times. The local collection numbers over 300. New catalogue of lending library issued. Bequest made by the late Thomas Ainsworth, Esq., of 700 volumes, and a valuable collection of paintings, engravings, etc. Average cost of 2,190 volumes, purchased during the year, is 3s. 0½d. per volume. No balance-sheet is given.

BRIGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, ROYAL PAVILION: Librarian, F. W. MADDEN.—The last *printed* annual report was for the year ending December 31, 1886. In the list of the members of the library sub-committee appears the name of only one member of the Town Council. In May, 1888, the Ven. Archdeacon Hannah resigned the chairmanship, and to the great loss of the town died soon after. In June, 1888, the Town Council decided that the curator should be relieved of the care of the library, and be retained as curator of the museum and picture-gallery, and in September appointed Mr. F. W. Madden as librarian. In the same year Count Angiolini Clericetti, of Brighton, bequeathed a bookcase containing over 500 volumes, and £500, to the library and museum. On October 16, 1889, the Victoria Lending Library was opened by the Mayor. The sum of £2,100 was subscribed, including £1,000 from Mr. Daniel Hack. The committee record as "a notable fact that since the publication of the catalogue in March last, the proportionate issue of fiction has decreased, while that of other classes of literature, especially magazines, has increased." The committee wish to establish a juvenile lending department. Larger premises wanted. No balance-sheet furnished.

CHELTHENHAM: Librarian, WILLIAM JONES.—The unique collection (1,200 volumes) of works on Ichthyology, collected by the late F. Day, Esq., C.I.E., has been most generously presented to the library by his daughters. Two gentlemen have each given £50 for the purchase of books. A new general catalogue of the library, including the "Day Library of Natural History," has been published. Use of juvenile section increases each year. Students and teachers have used largely the resources of the library. The committee regret that they cannot buy many new books, owing to the large annual repayment and interest on loans, but they give no financial statement. The form of table on p. 10 may be copied by other libraries with advantage.

CHISWICK: Librarian, HENRY J. HEWITT.—Contains a history of the movement in the parish. In November, 1890, the reading-rooms were opened by the chairman. The committee have decided not to open the lending department until it contains 2,000 volumes; at present they have only 1,025 volumes.

CLAPHAM: Librarian, J. REED WELCH.—Library opened November 1, 1889. The churchwardens and overseers assessed the building at £162; on appeal the assessment was reduced to £150 net. The hall over the library has been used by the Clapham Vestry. It is suggested that every ratepayer who could afford to do so should give yearly the value of one volume. In the reference department an open case is filled with 150 works in constant request. In addition to the financial statement, audited by the district auditor, are appended an estimate for the ensuing year and a capital account.

CLERKENWELL: Librarian, JAMES D. BROWN.—On March 8, 1890, the foundation-stone of the new building in Skinner Street was laid, and on October 10, the library was opened by the Lord Mayor of London. Average daily attendance on Sundays 430. Special mention made of a series of exhibitions illustrating the various processes employed in the

production of books, which is being promoted and carried out by Mr. H. W. Fincham, one of the commissioners. Only an abstract of the financial statement is furnished.

HASTINGS: Librarian, EDWARD MARSHALL.—The following is taken from the report printed in the *Hastings Times*, October 4, 1890: "The extension of hours and the removal of the restriction of tickets have been followed by a perceptible increase in the number of readers. Lending library not yet open." No financial statement appears in the above-mentioned paper.

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES: Librarian, CHARLES BAXTER.—The committee do not issue a report of the work done at the library. In the *Surrey Comet* for December 13, 1890, is a paragraph giving an account of the year's work. On December 27, the same paper gave a summary of the proceedings *re* Clattern House. It has now been decided to devote the ground-floor to the library, and to build a reading-room at the back.

LIVERPOOL: Librarian, PETER COWELL.—The opportunity is taken "not merely to place before the council the statistical facts which tell of the magnitude and completeness of the work done, but it also enables us to consider the value of that work, and to estimate its moral and intellectual influence upon the well-being of this great community." New branch in Kensington, known as the East Library, opened on January 31, 1890. The four evening reading-rooms are located in schoolrooms. This report answers many of the objections raised by those opposed to Free Public Libraries.

ST. HELENS: Librarian, ALFRED LANCASTER.—A separate room is much needed for the reference department. The separate reading-rooms devoted to boys and ladies respectively are crowded. The library assistants have on an average repaired thirty-seven volumes per day. The committee hope to open a new branch at Shatto Heath early next year.

SALFORD: Librarian, JOHN PLANT.—A clause has been inserted in the Bill to be presented by the Town Council in the present session of Parliament, asking for power to expend three-halfpence in the pound on the maintenance of the libraries and museum. The visitors to the news and reading rooms are counted and registered every hour, day by day, throughout the year. The requests for books on Sundays were limited in a great measure by the plan adopted of placing freely on the tables a good supply of books, suitable for boys, from which they could help themselves. The first section, "Science and Art," of the Reference Library Catalogue has been issued at 2s. 6d. per copy. A branch is to be opened at Broughton.

SOUTHAMPTON: Librarian, OSWALD T. HOPWOOD.—Deep regret expressed at the death of Mr. Councillor Falvey, the deputy-chairman. His collection of books was purchased by Sir Frederick Perkins, and presented to the library. The further extension of shelf accommodation is impossible, and yet there is not enough room for the books. The catalogue of the reference library is to be prepared on a new plan. The committee hope that a suitable building will be erected at the foot of Pound Tree Lane. They also support the establishment of a provident fund in connection with the L.A.U.K.

TYNEMOUTH: Librarian, GEORGE TIDEY.—Branch reading-room at the Aquarium a success. More shelf-room required. Number of people who visited the Central Library on March 14 was 2,157, and from that it is calculated that over half a million people visit the library during the year! Three members of the committee have died during the year. In more than one place the figures are misprinted.

WARRINGTON : Librarian, CHARLES MADELEY.—“List of donations having been reported to the council month by month, it is not necessary to repeat it here.” Supplement to catalogue has been printed. Catalogue of the miscellaneous pamphlets is in manuscript on cards. A temporary collapse of the reading-room issue may be expected this year, as one result of the freeing of the lending department. The “penny-a-book” system of lending has proved satisfactory. By a recent Improvement Act power was obtained to raise the limit of the rate to three-halfpence in the pound. A complete change has taken place in the staff during the year.

WEST BROMWICH : Librarian, D. DICKINSON.—The old volumes bound in half-calf and situated on the upper shelves show very conspicuously symptoms of deterioration caused by the vitiated atmosphere to which they are subjected. More attention to ventilation and lighting required. More shelving and other necessary improvements postponed owing to the limited income. Books to the value of £40 have been transferred from the Subscription Library.

WESTMINSTER : Librarian, HENRY E. POOLE.—The libraries have lost the services of Mr. R. A. Westbrook by death, and of Mr. F. Rose by his leaving the neighbourhood. The several interests in the site of the proposed new chief library have been acquired, and the arrangements for the erection of the new buildings are so far advanced that the works will be commenced shortly.

WIGAN : Librarian, H. TENNYSON FOLKARD.—“The last report contained a recital of the financial difficulties the institution had to contend with since its opening in 1878. By the increase of the rate to twopence in the pound, the monetary strain has been relieved, and for the first time I am able to say that the library is practically free from debt, and that the renewals and additions have been fairly commensurate with its efficiency. In the reference library several valuable purchases have been made, notably the set of maps of the new Ordnance Survey relating to Wigan. These are forty-three in number (scale ten feet to a mile), and they have been mounted on linen and placed in convenient folio cases specially designed for the purpose. Two great publications, which for years past have been coming out in parts, have been completed during the year : Hefner-Alteneck's exhaustive work on the “Costumes of all Ages” (720 highly-coloured plates, 10 vols., 4to), and Havard's fine publication on “Furniture and Decoration” (256 full-page plates, and 2,500 woodcuts, 4 vols., 4to). Both these books are of the highest value for the purposes of decorative design and artistic illustration. In the lending library the increased income has permitted a large renewal of worn-out books, and it is hoped there will be no difficulty in future in keeping this department well up to date. The chief work of renewal which remains to be done is in the entire replacement of the small reference collection in the news-room, but this is necessarily deferred until the contemplated extension of this portion of the building has been effected. Plans and estimates have been prepared, and the work is to be proceeded with immediately.”

GREAT YARMOUTH : Librarian, WILLIAM CARTER.—In the reference department greater accommodation for readers and many more books are needed, but cannot possibly be supplied out of the present income. New catalogue of lending department issued. A Cotgreave indicator has been added at a cost of £85. The committee hope that power will be obtained under the local bill to increase the rate to three-halfpence.

FOREIGN.

東京圖書館一覽

The Report of the Tokio Library. 32mo, 126 pp.

This report contains, in addition to a reprint of the rules for the management of the library, classified statistics of the number of books on every subject, and a long list of the recent additions, both of works in the vernacular and in the languages of Europe. Good progress is evidently being made in every direction. The list of English books is very considerable, and among the bibliographies it is gratifying to see the names of members of the Library Association honourably represented—notably that of the President. Only one great reform is wanted to bring this, the most intelligent and enterprising of Eastern nations, into closer touch with the West, and that is to abandon their cumbersome and most difficult alphabet, or rather character. Cultured Japanese are eager to see this hope realized.



The Bodleian Annual Report.

THE *Oxford University Gazette* for May 5 contains the usual annual report of the Bodleian Library, full of points of interest, as the record of so great an institution cannot fail to be. Taking these in the order in which they are presented to our attention, we have first to note that the receipt of items of all descriptions during 1890 is stated to show the third largest annual amount as yet recorded, amounting altogether to 49,088 articles. At this rate the library will in twenty years have received nearly a million additional items, a large proportion, of course, being of the smallest importance, such as cards, single sheets, etc. The number of bound and unbound volumes of books, exclusive of periodicals, received under the Copyright Act, is given as 8,363. From a comparison with the last published return of the British Museum, it might seem as if the Bodleian enforced its claim under the Copyright Act to no less than eight-ninths of the productions of the press of the United Kingdom; but it would be necessary to know whether the principle of enumeration is the same in both instances. The purchases of new and second-hand books, omitting parts and volumes of works in progress, have amounted altogether to 2,189 volumes. The Bodleian being above all things a library for scholars, the number of new foreign works purchased by it from any country is no unfair criterion of the condition of learning in that country as compared with others. Tested by this standard, Germany comes out triumphant, the number of German works purchased being 579, or considerably more than a third of the whole. France comes next with 361, and Austria-Hungary follows with 128. The other figures are insignificant, though some of the smaller countries, such as Holland and Denmark, contribute a larger proportion under the head of donations and exchanges than under that of purchases, and the number under both heads would, no doubt, be considerably augmented if their scholars wrote in Latin, as of old. In general, however, the column of donations keeps step with the column of purchases, Germany heading it with 2,213, and France coming next with 930. The most remarkable feature of the purchases of old books deemed worthy of special enumeration is that they have almost entirely been made out of funds provided by two anonymous annual benefactors, but for whom it would almost appear that the remarkable acquisitions of the past year would have been confined to MSS.

The additions of MSS., however, have been of exceeding interest. They include the Fairfax family papers, which appear to have had a very narrow escape from destruction; the charter and records of the Oxford Barbers' Company; King Magnus's Icelandic law-book, on vellum; thirty-eight Hebrew MSS. from the ruins of an ancient synagogue at Cairo; and no fewer than twenty-four volumes of Samaritan MSS., so seldom to be met with. More interesting than any of these are two lines of Greek handwriting, being a copy written on a waxed writing-tablet by an Egyptian child, about the second century A.D., as Mr. Nicholson thinks, before the prevalence of Christianity, undoubtedly, inasmuch as the import of the copy-slip is: "Homer is a god and not a man." This is fame indeed! and delightful is the glimpse thus afforded into an ancient school. This portion of the report concludes with the announcement of the failure, for the present, of the negotiations entered upon for the acquisition of an important private collection.

Manuscripts also claim the most important share of the administrative details given in the latter portion of the report. Far beyond every

other such detail in interest is the statement of the measures adopted to expedite the completion of the printed catalogue of the MSS., which has been retarded by the elaborate manner in which entries have hitherto been made, and by the frequent interruptions to the services of the only two members of the staff hitherto employed upon it. No fewer than 6,000 MSS., it is stated, are as yet unentered in any printed catalogue, and 3,000 are catalogued imperfectly. It has been decided to resort to a summary catalogue "to be executed by Mr. Madan, on a scale similar to that of M. Omont's catalogue of the Greek MSS. at Paris." Mr. Madan hopes to complete this abridged catalogue, including additions made meanwhile, within seven years, and the catalogue is to be printed sheet by sheet as fast as it is prepared. It is not stated whether the more elaborate quarto catalogues will meanwhile be suspended; but, provided that the simpler list enables students to discover what the Bodleian actually possesses, this is comparatively a matter of slight importance. Mr. Madan's undertaking will command the cordial sympathy of scholars and librarians everywhere. Next in importance are the amalgamation of the indexes to the various sets of MSS. already catalogued, and the completion of the hand-catalogues of MSS. for the service of the library itself. Both of these undertakings have been accomplished within the past year. Much also appears to have been done towards the description and exhibition of recently acquired papyri and other Greek MS. fragments, a department of palæography to which late discoveries have imparted especial importance. One of the fragments thus treated is of extraordinary interest, being a vellum palimpsest, containing a portion of Theodotion's version of Bel and the Dragon, superscribed upon an unidentified Christian text, with a quotation from either Matthew or Luke, which, if Mr. Nicholson is correct in ascribing the superimposed writing to the fourth or fifth century, must be almost, or quite, the oldest MS. fragment of the New Testament extant. This does indeed suggest what treasures may lurk in Egyptian catacombs!

Of progress in the printed book division of the library there is less to be said. Cataloguing has been as active as usual, but transcription has fallen off from a cause doubtless well understood at the Bodleian, but which we are unable to appreciate from unacquaintance with the exact meaning of the phraseology employed to explain it. The subject catalogue was also for some time interrupted for want of a cataloguer, and we are not informed what proportion the work done bears to that remaining to be accomplished. We hope for fuller particulars next year. There is no more interesting undertaking than the classification of titles at the Bodleian, and its issue, whether successful or not, must be exceedingly instructive to other libraries. Much has been effected in binding at considerable outlay, and the method adopted for dealing with the librarian's torment, the accumulation of unbound tracts, appears very practical.

On the whole, this report bears ample testimony to the interest taken by the curators in every detail of the great institution under their charge, and of the energy which, whether always judiciously directed or not, will be allowed to be the distinguishing note of Mr. Nicholson's administration. We feel some surprise that transcription should still be maintained, and that, for the multiplication of titles, recourse should neither have been had to the printing press, as at Cambridge and London, nor to the type-writer as at Dublin. The blame, if any, falls rather upon the University than the Library; the funds of the latter may not be adequate, but the resources of the University Press might surely be as legitimately employed in printing Bodleian accession titles as upon editions of the classics or educational manuals. This is the more remarkable as the University and the Library have jointly taken a very great step in the employment of another mechanical aid to library-work—photography. Oxford has

realized what ought to be the object of every great public library by taking photography out of the hands of the private practitioner, and placing it under the administration. The University Press, fortunately, possesses a photographic department, which has now become a department of the Library, in so far as the requirements of the latter and its visitors are concerned. The element of private profit being thus eliminated, and the work performed by public, salaried, and responsible officers, the scale of charges has been very greatly diminished, and a corresponding increase has taken place in the amount of work executed. If the British Museum had similarly possessed a photographic department under an officer of its own, it would not have been necessary to publish the Aristotelian facsimile at two guineas.

The report deserves the praise of perfect clearness, except when terms only locally current are employed, and allowing for a few probably accidental omissions, of perfect candour. We question, indeed, whether candour is not carried too far when the actual prices of acquisitions, and the actual cost of bindings, are given for the information of the outer world.

Library Association Record.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The committee of the art museum of the Corporation of Nottingham have, at the suggestion of Mr. Briscoe, decided to hold an exhibition of art bookbindings during the approaching visit of the Association. It has also been arranged that there will be an exhibition of library bindings, drawings, photographs, forms, and appliances, at the University College, where the Association will meet. Intending contributors may address Mr. G. H. Wallis, F.S.A., Art Museum, Nottingham Castle, and Mr. Briscoe, public librarian.

Mr. Briscoe desires us to state that he will be absent from Nottingham from June 20 until July 6.

NOTE.

Mr. J. D. Brown, Clerkenwell Public Library, London, E.C., has been requested by the Council of the L. A. U. K. to prepare a report on library appliances, to be submitted at the annual meeting, and will be glad to receive descriptions or specimens at the above address as soon as possible. Anything new or particularly useful in the way of ladders or steps, boxes, book-holders, racks, newspaper-stands and holders, reading-desks, shelf-fittings, book-cases, lifts or carriers, indicator tickets or other adjuncts, tags, shelf and book numbers, accession frames or cases, files, clips, etc. After this appeal all omissions will be chargeable to the designers, and not the reporter!

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

The last monthly meeting was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, May 12th, at 8 p.m., when a paper was read by Mr. Frank Campbell, entitled "A Plea for (1) an Annual List of State Papers, and (2) an Annual Report on State Papers." There was a short discussion, in which Messrs. Wright and Tedder took part. Mr. Campbell replied, and a vote of thanks to the author of the paper brought the meeting to a close.

NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting will, by the kind invitation of Messrs. Braby and Co., be held at the Deptford Library and Club, on Monday, June 8, at 8.15 p.m. A paper will be read by the librarian and hon. secretary of the institution, Mr. G. R. Humphrey, on "The Literary Associations of Deptford." At six o'clock the members present will be conducted over Messrs. Braby's extensive works, and at seven tea will be provided. To facilitate these hospitable arrangements it is specially requested that all those who intend to be present will notify Mr. Humphrey as early as possible.

The club is situated in Junction Road, near Blackhorse Bridge, Lower Road, Deptford, and within ten minutes by tram-car of Deptford Road Station, which can be reached from any station on the Metropolitan, District, or East London Railways.

PRIZE ESSAYS.

See "*The Library*" for May, pp. 193, 194.

It has been suggested that the offer of a prize of ONE POUND, made on p. 194 of our last issue, is likely from its position to escape notice. We therefore repeat it here. The prize will be given for the best set of six leaflets suitable for distribution in districts where the adoption of the Acts is being promoted. Original matter is not essential, and leaflets that have actually been used may be sent in. This offer is limited to library assistants. The last day for sending in is July 1.



STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORTS.

NOTE : Under "Year ending," the first figure refers to the month, the second to the year : e.g., "3-90" = March, 1890. When no figure appears under a heading it means that the required information cannot be obtained from the report.

Name.	No. of Rept.	Year Ending.	No. of Branches	Number of Volumes in Stock.				Volumes Issued.				Fiction Issued.	No. of Borrowers.	Product of Rate.	Total Income.
				Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Branches	Grand Total of Vols.	Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Branches	Grand Total of Vols.				
Aberdeen	...	8-90	...	...	22,361	...	22,361	58,791a	257,511	...	316,302	p.c.	7,583	£	2,141
Belfast	...	2 11-90	...	...	14,336	...	167,255	...	208,505	...	...	48	7,283	...	...
Birmingham	...	29 12-90	4	106,489	26,243	34,523	36,813	343,116	278,344	226,231	847,691	57	19,082	...	...
Blackburn	...	29 2-91	...	18,595	18,218	...	32,960	35,262	71,202	...	106,464	67	...	...	...
Brighton	...	11-90b	...	12,760	20,191	...	17,888	32,863c	103,432	...	136,295	...	6,408	...	...
Cheltenham	...	6 10-90	...	7,294	10,594	...	1,025	9,662	133,329	...	142,991	73	6,394	1,042	...
Chiswick	...	1 4-91	...	...	1,025	...	6,188	Library not open.	...	...	...	64	...	...	420
Clapham	...	3 10-90	...	687	5,501	...	10,700	5,419	83,104	...	88,523	62	3,849	383	4,026d
Clerkenwell	...	3 12-90	...	1,651	9,049	...	10,700	5,881e	72,174	...	78,055	80	3,116	880f	8,464g
Hastings	...	2 9-90	...	...	...	...	...	5,885	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Liverpool	...	38 12-90	3	96,689	...	54,268	150,957	307,689	...	465,305	772,994	...	11,269	...	...
St. Helens	...	13 8-90	1	3,853	12,743	1,477	18,073	3,926	96,674	13,774	114,374	80h	...	1,012	1,162
Salford	...	4 10-90	3	47,217	13,276	30,470	90,963	56,673	22,738	338,174	317,585	86	3,338*	...	...
Southampton	...	2 8-90i	...	1,263	9,304	...	10,567	13,770	100,317	...	114,087	85	3,845	976	1,197
Tynemouth	...	21 12-90	2	4,238	...	...	26,983	9,236	119,738	958	129,932	...	4,091	600	783
Warrington	11,286	10,873	3,650l	25,863	18,554	26,484	...	45,038	...	1,362	548	700
West Bromwich	...	16 9-90	3	2,631	10,314	705	13,710	2,334	52,298	...	54,632	77	786*	689	759
Westminster	...	34 3-91	1	19,819	3,114	...	22,933	61,202	70,921	26,030	158,213	65	...	1,530	1,834
Wigan	...	13 2-91	1	...	11,280	...	m	15,744	70,589	...	86,333	82n	947*	...	...
Yarmouth	...	5 3-91	1	2,288	8,479	629	11,396	3,560p	99,594	10,120	121,227q	57	3,178	708	939

* New Tickets. a—Reading room issues. b—Jan., 1887, to Nov., 1890. c—Oct. 16, 1889, to Sept. 30, 1890. d—Including donations £2,116, and loan £1,000. e—Open Oct. 13. f—Part only. g—Including loan £6,000. h—This includes poetry, etc. i—June 1, 1889, to Aug. 30, 1890. j—Pamphlets and MSS. m—It is not clear from the report whether 37,605 is the total number of vols. in Library or in Ref. Library alone. n—Including juvenile. p—On p. 10 the number given is 3,718. q—This includes 7,795 issued in Juvenile Reading Room.

Book Brotherhood.

HERE are my companions sleeping
Tranquilly in each closed book,
Till a spirit in me leaping
From its bondage dares to look :

Here are those who felt deep heart-throes
In the morning of the earth,
All untutored, as the wind blows,
Giving human song its birth ;
Diverse men in diverse races
Hearing, answering, some faint call,
Finding links and losing traces
Where Oblivion drops its pall ;
From chaotic dreams evolving
Thought once breathed on speaking stone,
Whose far-echoes now are solving
Problems in Thought's later zone ;
Disputants of soul and matter—
God the Force, or Force the God—
As the autumn winds that scatter
Dry leaves on a dewy sod,
So departing, coming ever
With a new-inspired endeavour,
Here as brothers rest together.

Books that keep alive the ages
On my shelves abide in peace,
Truth enshrined within their pages
Waiting for a full release ;
Not alone in one tome dwelling,
But in all, perchance, a gleam
In the dark, some dark dispelling
Of humanity's strange dream.

The Library.

Old true friends in welcome places
Greet me in each varying mood,
And new friends with fresh young faces
Woo with keen solicitude ;
Ancient discords merging slowly
Into one harmonious whole,
Time absorbing high or lowly
In the majesty of soul.

Mighty dead, but mightier living
Spirit of the brain and pen,
Founts of Thought for ever giving
Impetus to yearning men,
So departing, coming ever
With a new-inspired endeavour,
Here as brothers rest together.

EDWARD FOSKETT.



The Exhibition of Bookbindings at the Burlington Fine Arts Club.

I.

ABOUT the end of the last century a rather amusing exchange of offers took place between James Edwards, *très adroit libraire de Londres*, and his French *confrère*, M. Renouard, who tells the story, and who therefore, it is needless to say, does not come out of it second best. For books bound for Grolier, in good condition, and with his name on the binding, Mr. Edwards magnanimously offered M. Renouard a sovereign apiece, and M. Renouard promptly wrote back to say that if Mr. Edwards himself had any of these bindings in stock he would be very glad to purchase them, not for one sovereign each, but for six. Ten Groliers had probably passed into English hands at the sale in 1725 of the library of Esprit Fléchier, Bishop of Nîmes, which took place in England, but we have no record of their attracting any attention, and it was only after the dispersal of many fine French collections during the Revolution that our English taste for bindings was sufficiently whetted to tempt a *très adroit libraire de Londres* to inquire after Groliers at a sovereign apiece. At least one English collector, the Rev. Clayton Mordaunt Cracherode, made ample use of the opportunities which the times offered, and his library, which—as all good collectors should—he bequeathed to the British Museum, contains a number of fine bindings altogether out of proportion to its size. An even greater benefactor to the Museum, Mr. Grenville, cared no less for fine bindings than Mr. Cracherode, but his taste in this respect was unhappily not always equal to his zeal. It is said that his magnificent collection cost £54,000 to purchase and £56,000 to bind, and there are those who hint that if this second sum had been reduced by a half the value of the library would not have been diminished. For the dislike which Mr. Grenville felt for an imperfect or a cropped book he extended also to a rubbed or otherwise damaged binding, and while the original covers which he preserved are uniformly in

the most splendid condition, the tales of the old bindings which he stripped off and threw away are melancholy to listen to. Thus the appreciation of bindings in England is of quite recent growth; but, especially during the last few years, the taste has grown with marvellous rapidity. The present Exhibition at the Burlington Fine Arts Club is a welcome attestation of the abundance of fine examples of the art which have found a place in English libraries. That it will feed the enthusiasm out of which it has grown may be taken for granted, and it is probable that in the near future the relative importance of book and binding will be reversed in England as signally as it already is in France, and that the little Venetian or Lyonnese trade-bindings, which already fetch more than a Grolier was worth fifty years ago, will be quoted at sums beyond the reach of any but the wealthiest amateurs. But these gloomy forebodings are for the future; at present our first duty is to congratulate the Council of the Burlington Club on the really magnificent collection which the liberality of Lord Crawford, Lord Ashburnham, Mr. Alfred Huth, His Excellency M. Gennadius, Mr. Hucks Gibbs, Mr. Elton, Eton College, the Deans and Chapters of Durham and of Westminster, Mr. Quaritch, and Mr. Toovey, and of other well-known collectors, corporations, and booksellers, has placed at their disposal. To this liberality it is only fair to say that the club has made an admirable response. At the time when this notice was written the catalogue was still unfortunately incomplete and marked as "under revision"; but even as an unrevised proof it is no exaggeration which ranks it as the most important contribution to the history of binding which has yet appeared in England. As far as differences of size will permit, the books are arranged round the room chronologically under the countries in which they have been bound, and in the catalogue this arrangement has been strictly carried out. Of the old blind-stamped bindings the majority of the descriptions have been written by Mr. Weale of the South Kensington Museum, while Mr. W. Y. Fletcher, of the Library of the British Museum, is responsible for most of the entries of the gold-tooled books of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. To this catalogue a long introduction in two parts has been prefaced, in which Mr. Gordon Duff deals with the blind-stamped bindings, and Miss Sarah Prideaux carries on the history of the art from the introduction of gold tooling down to the present day. A magnificent exhibition is thus worthily catalogued and worthily introduced, and the student of the history of binding is given every assistance towards availing himself of the opportunities of examination and

comparison of styles which the assemblage of so large and representative a collection for the first time affords.

The earliest bindings exhibited are of more interest to the student of metal-work than of binding properly so called. The most notable of these encloses a manuscript of the Gospels written in Germany in the tenth century, and preserved in the Convent of the Noble Canonesses (founded in 834 by the Emperor Lewis the Pious, at Lindau, on Lake Constance), until its dissolution in 1803. It is now in the possession of Lord Ashburnham, and was very fully described some years ago when exhibited at the Society of Antiquaries, the binding by Mr. Alexander Nesbitt, and the manuscript by Mr. Maunde Thompson. The lower cover may be as old as the eighth century, and is of especial interest as pointing to the influence of the Irish missionaries in Germany upon native workmen. The upper cover is profusely studded with pearls and jewels, but is of considerably later date, and has probably been more than once repaired. A similar use of materials of different dates may be found in the covers of a *Psalterium* of the eleventh or twelfth century, in which the enamel work in the centre is probably as late as 1450, while the borders, which contain thirty-two ivory medallions representing prophets and saints, some of them inscribed with Greek uncials, may have been executed more than five hundred years earlier. Two other books call for notice, the first a tenth-century Bible, with beautiful ivory plaques in high relief, surrounded by metal plates, gilt and embossed, and with gems inserted; the second, a treatise by Peter Lombard, with plates set with gems and plaques of Limoges enamel, and in the centre a figure of the crucifixion in enamelled copper, probably of Byzantine workmanship of the tenth century. In all these books the task of the binder was confined to arranging the sheets of the MSS. and uniting them with stout thongs to boards of wood, the decoration of which was the work of the goldsmith.

We come now to the blind-stamped bindings, and here a comparison of dates is of some interest. In the English case, exhibits 1 to 7 are assigned to the twelfth century, No. 8 (a work of Stephen Langton's) to the thirteenth, whence we jump at once to *circa* 1480. The earliest Netherlandish binding exhibited cannot be assigned to an earlier date than 1465; the earliest French to *circa* 1450; the earliest German to a little later. Thus the history of leather binding begins in England, disappears in the thirteenth century, and only comes again into sight at a date subsequent to that of the invention of printing, when it is practised in England under foreign influences.

The tale thus told by the works exhibited at the club is substantially true. No doubt leather binding was practised both in England and abroad during the fourteenth century. One of the Netherlandish bindings exhibited by the Department of MSS. at the British Museum belongs to this period. At the club also the binding on a book printed at Venice in 1495 contains one of the stamps used on the cover of the Winchester Domesday Book of 1148. The examples of the Oxford bindings of Theodoric Rood, and his English partner, Thomas Hunte (A 10 and 11), show that the tradition of the English arrangement of stamps was still kept up, though the stamps themselves were foreign. There is thus no absolute break of continuity. But partly, perhaps, owing to the cheapening of metal binding, partly to the wars which destroyed learning, and so diminished the demand for cheap books, leather binding went out of fashion in the thirteenth century, and did not regain its popularity till the invention of printing made its revival a necessity. But between the thirteenth and the fifteenth centuries the invention of the panel stamp had revolutionized the art. So long as only small stamps were used, their disposition left real scope for the task and ingenuity of the individual binder, and the arrangement on the Winchester Domesday Book of pear-shaped stamps in two large circles within a rectangle is singularly beautiful. But with the advent of the panel stamp the work of the individual workman was reduced to a minimum. The stamp filled up the whole, or nearly the whole, of the cover, and in the scanty room which might be left for a border the arrangement of the smaller decorations would be matter of necessity rather than of choice. The earliest example of a panel stamp on an English binding (A 14) is the arms of Edward IV. on a bookcover lent from Westminster Abbey. In the reign of Henry VIII. the Royal Arms and the Tudor Rose, supported by angels, were two very favourite subjects for stamps, with the result that, in Mr. Duff's words, "A fond belief, strongly encouraged by booksellers, has grown up amongst collectors that such books once formed part of the library of the king himself—a theory which only ignorance can recommend." One English printer, John Reynes, used as a panel the arms, not of the king, but of Christ—i.e., the emblems of the passion arranged heraldically, with the inscription *Redemptoris Mundi Arma*.

On the Continent pictorial panels were in fashion, and many of these are of great beauty. Among the German stamped bindings we must not forget to mention the copy of the Mazarin Bible bound by Johann Fogel (B 33, lent by Eton College), though the stamps on it

are almost undecipherable.* Some also of the later German bindings, which contain portraits of the Reformers and other celebrities, are sufficiently interesting. But the introduction of the Roll, a brass wheel, cut in patterns, which thus repeated themselves in a fixed order, by depriving the workman of the last remnant of freedom, reduced stamped binding to a mechanical dullness, and by the end of the sixteenth century it practically ceased to exist.

We have now reached case C, which is intended to illustrate the Oriental influences under which gold tooling was introduced into Venice towards the end of the third quarter of the fifteenth century, and starting from this point we hope to complete our notice of the exhibition next month.

* The catalogue of the Ives Sale at New York contains a photograph of a similar copy of the Mazarin Bible, in much finer condition. Fogel's stamp of a man playing the lute is there easily distinguishable.



The Charters and other Muniments of the Corporation of Reading.¹

IN the eleventh report of the Historical MSS. Commission published in 1888 there will be found an admirable calendar of the manuscripts belonging to the Corporation of Reading, compiled by that able and accomplished scholar, the Rev. W. D. Macray. He described them as "both ancient and numerous," and tells us that "any future writer on the antiquities of the town would find much of local interest, hitherto unused, but which deserves full description."

The verdict of this great authority as to the value of the muniments belonging to the Corporation created a considerable degree of interest as to their contents. About twelve months ago the then Mayor of this town, Mr. G. W. Palmer, obtained the consent of the Council for their publication; and, with splendid munificence, undertook to guarantee the expense of publication. As Mr. Palmer did me the honour of entrusting the editorship to my care, I have ventured, at the request of the Committee, to submit the present paper to the members of the Library Association.

On examining the calendar given us by Mr. Macray, it will be observed that the MSS. Records of Reading group themselves under three principal sections.

(1.) *The Corporation Diary*.—This consists of the acts of the Mayor and Burgesses (or the minutes of the Merchant Guild, and subsequent Municipal body) from 1431 (10 Hen. VI.) down to our own times, with one unfortunate break. The register for the years 1603-1622 is missing, but is partly supplied by the accounts and special entries from another volume. I may state that the Corporation Diary, being the official life of the town and embracing transactions of such varied character, will be the first series published in three large octavo volumes. The greater part has already been transcribed. The first volume is nearly printed, and I am now correcting the proof. Few towns in England will be able to boast

¹ Read at the annual meeting of the Library Association held in Reading, September, 1890.

of an official record of their existence more continuous, complete, and progressive.

(2.) *Documentary Annals.* — The second section of our town records comes under the head of Documentary Annals. This would embrace charters, deeds, letters, writs and other original documents affecting the history and government of the town. These Documentary Annals will naturally arrange themselves under the regnal years of successive monarchs. In editing this series it is proposed to insert references to documents in the Record Office, British Museum, and other sources, which may be useful for further historical inquiry. This section will form two additional volumes of the same size.

(3.) The third section of the town records may be classified under the head of *Treasurer's Accounts and Miscellaneous Papers*, affecting the trade, police, and general regulations of the town. This will be contained in one volume; so that the entire series, embracing the bulk of our Municipal records, will comprise six octavo volumes.

In this paper I must limit myself to one particular section of the Corporation records, viz., that portion of the Documentary Annals which relates to the charters of liberties and privileges granted from time to time by successive monarchs. I shall of course omit all mention of the ancient charters granted to the Abbey by Henry I., the founder, and by successive kings. These charters were ecclesiastical and not municipal, except as regards privileges of townsmen as tenants of the Abbey. We shall see, as time goes on, that these ecclesiastical charters were the fruitful cause of incessant dispute and constant friction between the Abbot and the powerful Merchant Guild which constituted the commercial and social life of the town. The townsmen accused the Abbot of usurpation and the Abbot complained of their encroachments. The Abbey Charter was viewed on one side with suspicion, and defended on the other with jealous pertinacity. Under the Angevine kings the growth of the town was overshadowed and restricted by the Abbey, but in the thirteenth century we see the wealthy and powerful Merchant Guild of the town successful in wresting from the Abbot, through a special charter from the Crown, a certain assured position of independence and authority.

There are in all fourteen royal charters belonging to the Corporation. It will be unnecessary to do more at present than notify those which have a special bearing upon the commercial growth of the town, or illustrate the political and social life of Reading from the thirteenth century to the dissolution of the Abbey. By the kindness

of our Town Clerk, I am able to exhibit the most important of these charters, viz., Edward III., Henry VII., and Henry VIII.

Putting aside, then, the Abbey charters, we may date the commencement of our municipal history with that development of national, intellectual, and devotional life, which took place not only in England, but Europe, in the thirteenth century. The first authentic record of our town liberties occurs in a document no longer in our possession, and the original of which is probably not extant. A Parliament had been held in Reading, 25 Henry III. (1241). This had probably given the townsmen the opportunity of making known their complaints and of purchasing an enlargement of privileges. Their appeal was ultimately successful. In a precept to the Sheriff of Berks, dated February, 1253, the King had disallowed the privileges claimed by the town. But in a charter of 37 Henry III., dated at Portsmouth, 5th July, 1253, he grants to the burgesses among other things that they should be *quit from all pleas*.

We gather its contents from an "Inspeximus" charter or charter of confirmation, granted to the town by his great-grandson, Edward III., in 1344. As this Inspeximus charter of Edward III. is now the earliest of the Royal charters still in the possession of the Corporation, and as it recites *in extenso* the terms of King Henry's charter nearly a hundred years earlier, I may be permitted to give a more minute account of it than of the others. I ought to say, however, that while I almost despair of tracing the lost original of King Henry's charter 1253, I have been successful in finding another reference to it. In the next year, viz., 1254 (38 Henry III.), the following entry occurs on the Pipe Roll: "The men of Reading render account of £100 for having a *writ concerning liberties* to be had, as is contained in the Originalia of the 37th year. Into the Treasury they paid £66 and one mark; and into the King's wardrobe at Portsmouth 50 marks, as is contained in the same Originalia. And they are quit."

Let me now return to the Inspeximus charter of Edward III. and find out what the original charter of Henry III. contained, and how it was modified by his successor. I need hardly state that an "Inspeximus" is a transcript of the charter of a preceding king, ratified and confirmed by his successor. In most cases it will be found that an Inspeximus was applied for and granted at the commencement of a new reign, under the reasonable apprehension that the new monarch being in want of funds might ignore their privileges and insist on the costly proceeding of a new charter being taken out in the Court of Chancery. In the present instance, instead of £100, the Burgesses

of the Guild only paid a small fine of 5 marks (£3 6s. 8d.) for the confirmation. This charter has been printed by Coates in his *History of Reading* (Appendix vii.), but there are several important omissions in the text, and he omits the names of the prelates and nobles who acted as witnesses in both cases. I have carefully copied the original document, of which the following is a translation: "We have inspected the charter which the Lord Henry, of famous memory, formerly King of England, our progenitor, made in these words: Henry, by the Grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy, Aquitaine and Earl of Anjou, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Reeves, Ministers and all his bailiffs and faithful people greeting: Know ye that we will and command for us and our heirs, that all the Burgesses of Radinge who are in the *Guild Merchant of Reading*, shall for ever be quit of Shires and Hundreds, and all pleas, plaints, tolls, passages, and carriages, and shall sell and buy wheresoever they shall please through the whole of England without toll, and no one shall disturb them upon forfeiture to us of ten pounds. Given by our hand at Portsmouth, on the 5th day of July, in the 37th year of our reign" (1253). Now let us see how this charter was modified by King Edward in 1344. He goes on: "And we for us and our heirs do grant and confirm the charter aforesaid, and the things contained in the same to the 'Burgesses' of the town aforesaid, and their heirs and successors, 'Burgesses' of the same town, as the charter aforesaid reasonably testifies, and as the same Burgesses and their ancestors have hitherto reasonably used and enjoyed those liberties; *these words above noted, that is to say that the said Burgesses shall be quit of all pleas, only excepted.*"

The only comments that are suggested by a comparison of the contents of charters of 1253 and 1344 are these: (1) That the Merchant Guild had succeeded in establishing a recognised position and authority in the town as a community of independent traders, and that the Abbot's jurisdiction was being jealously limited and defined. (2) That some advantage had been taken by the town of the wording of the charter of Henry III., exempting them from all pleas. It is not improbable that they had claimed under this clause to escape from the jurisdiction of the Abbot's Manorial Court. This was of course resisted by the Abbot as an infringement of the Abbey charters. When it became a question of obtaining confirmation of the privileges of the Merchant Guild, this point would be raised by the Abbot, and on his protest this qualifying clause was inserted. At all events it is clear that in the interval of 100 years between the original charter of Henry III. and the *Inspeximus* charter of Edward III.,

the town had made rapid strides in the assertion of authority independent of the Abbot. In 23 of Edward I. (1295), about forty years after the original charter, we find two burgesses of Reading summoned to the Parliament of Westminster, and as Browne Willis observes: "This borough never pleaded any exemption touching representatives in Parliament, notwithstanding the great power of its Abbots, which sheltered nearly all the great Parliamentary Abbey towns before Henry VIII.'s time." To this period also (1295), I attribute the first use of the common seal of the town, bearing impress of King Edward I. (see coins) and four burgesses. This seal was used on a deed of Edward III.'s time, 1356. The seal of the Merchant Guild was adopted by the town after the Charter of Incorporation by Henry VIII.

Between the charter of Edward III. in 1344, and the reign of Henry VII. in 1485, we find in the possession of the Corporation three other confirmatory charters, viz., Richard II., Henry IV., and Henry VI. These have no special interest, and may be passed over.

The next charter is one which indicates the increasing dignity and importance of the Guild Mercatory, and the policy of the first Tudor monarch in encouraging the growth and independence of the great trading towns as a counterpoise to the power of the nobles. This charter of Henry VII. was given at Mayfield, a manor and palace belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Primate at that time, Cardinal Morton, being Lord Chancellor and confidential Minister to the King. It was dated 4th August, in the second year of his reign (1487), and recites as usual the text of the charters of preceding monarchs. But we find these important additions. It is curious that in quoting the charters of Edward III. and succeeding monarchs, he speaks of them as granted "*Majori et Burgensibus Ville predictæ*," whereas in the originals, the term "Burgenses" is only used, indicating by this change the influential position which the Mayor of the Guild had acquired in the government of the town. In his own confirmation clause, the King distinctly acknowledges them as "the Mayor and Burgesses of the town." I am inclined to think that the title of *Mayor* was not assumed by the Custos or Warden of the Guild till 1431, when the diary of the Corporation begins. He also concedes to them these further privileges: (1) *Of electing two Sergeants at Maa* to attend upon the Mayor of the town for the time being. N.B.—This privilege had been refused by Henry VI. on complaint of the Abbot. See letter to *Warden* of Guild by King. (2) That the Mayor for the time being shall have the survey and correction of all

men using the working and making of cloths in the said town, and of all other artificers connected with the same manufacture, saving to the chief Lord of that Fee, *i.e.*, the Lord Abbot, the fines, pains, forfeitures, and all other profits arising from such correction. (3) That the Mayor and Burgesses should not be summoned on Assize, Juries, Attaints, Recognitions, or Inquisitions before Justices of Assize and Gaol Delivery, Justices of the Peace, or other Justices *outside the town or borough*, nor shall be made collectors of tenths or fifteenths. This will show what great strides had been made in the independent authority of the municipal body. It was practically recognising them as a Corporation without special words to that effect.

These conclude the charters granted before the dissolution of the Abbey. The Abbey was surrendered to the King 1539, and the Deed of Surrender may probably still exist in the Record Office. The rights and territorial authority of the Abbot would at once devolve upon the Crown.

On 24th April, 1542, being the 34th year of his reign, Henry VIII. granted a new charter, confirming the charters of Henry III. and of his father, Henry VII. Moreover, the Abbot having disappeared from the scene, the King now confers ample powers of independent rule and authority upon the Mayor and burgesses, so that this may be styled the first Charter of Incorporation to the town, as distinct from the Guild Mercatory.

This charter is engrossed on two skins of vellum. The initial letter is beautifully illuminated, and contains a portrait of the King seated on his throne, and portraits of the Mayor and three burgesses kneeling before him. The Mayor is on the left side, and below his name is given in gilt letters, thus—"Richard Turner, Mayer of Redyng." The names of the three burgesses are also subscribed in black ink, *viz.*, "Richard Justice, John Whyte, Willyam Edmondes, Burgeses." The whole of the first line of the charter is also illuminated in gold and colours, with several coats of arms and heraldic devices. Only a portion of the great seal remains.

I have traced the history of the town to its incorporation after the dissolution of the Abbey. I have endeavoured to show in the above sketch what a marvellous light these old documents throw on the early history of our town, the patient tenacity with which the traders of the Merchant Guild bided their time, and watched their opportunity, in the long struggle for independence with their powerful feudal lord, the mitred Abbot of Reading. We see the steady development of corporate life going on with the advancing growth of

commercial prosperity. And I think the study of these ancient documents justifies me in saying that they form the true sources and materials of English history. Their preservation has been a priceless boon to every student in the town of Reading; and I am not alone in thinking that the generosity of our late Mayor, in undertaking their publication, deserves the grateful recognition of his fellow-townsmen. I have had no restrictions placed upon me by him, except these, that the Corporation diary was to be printed without omissions, and that the whole work should be executed carefully and thoroughly.

May I also be permitted to say that these Muniments of the Corporation of Reading are too precious to be hidden away altogether? Not only from their historical value, but as artistically beautiful in caligraphy and illumination, they deserve to see the light, to be better known and appreciated. I trust that one effect of the visit of this Association to Reading, composed as it is of so many who are eminent in the study of Bibliography, may induce our Corporate authorities to exhibit some of these ancient charters, properly framed and glazed, in the Public Library and Museum. It will create an intelligent interest in many of our younger visitors to that place. It will show them that they are the citizens of no mean city; that their forefathers, who were the makers of Reading, were men occupied in something more than private gain or selfish ends; that they had at heart the public good; that they had to face in their generation difficult questions, and did face them manfully and righteously; that they led a stirring, eventful life, throbbing with intense human interests; and that, on the whole, life with them was not a failure. So that we may say of them what I hope our descendants will repeat of us when our work is done, "The England of the present day owes much to the England of the past."

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Reynard the Fox.

THERE are probably but few works to be found in the whole range of European literature of the Middle Ages whose origin and history have given rise to so much discussion as the story of *Reynard the Fox*. The editions in various languages and dialects are all but innumerable, and a bare list of all the books, pamphlets, and essays in English, German, Dutch, and other periodical works that have appeared on the subject during the last hundred and fifty or more years would alone fill many pages. Writers have gone on repeating old theories long since exploded, and not content with blindly quoting (and in some instances *misquoting*) without giving themselves the slightest trouble to verify the statements of their predecessors, have added to the confusion by fresh blunders of their own, entirely ignoring all the labours of the more recent scholars of Germany and France who made a special study of the question, so that Mr. Thoms was no true prophet when he expressed his belief that more had been already written about it than ever would be written again; for I believe it would be no exaggeration to say that during the six-and-forty years that have passed since he uttered this prediction in his admirable Introduction to the reprint of Caxton's translation which he edited for the Percy Society in 1844, more has been written on the subject than ever had appeared before, and still the remark of J. F. Willems in his edition of the Flemish *Reinaert*, that "de geleerde Vossenjagd nog niet geheel is ten einde gelopen," remains to this day as true as it was when he wrote it in 1836.

A writer in the January number of *Booklore* for 1885 says, truly enough, that "*Reynard the Fox* is the most famous of the beast-epics and fables of the Middle Ages;" but his further statement that "the original form is *Low German*, and it professes to be the work of Hinrek van Alkmer, but later critics believe that this is but the pseudonym of Hermann Barkhusen," is wrong in every respect, for in the first place the "*Low German*" (*Reineke Vos*) so far from being the "original form" is a comparatively modern version, a translation, in fact, from a Flemish poem, which in its turn was only

a recension (made but a few years previously) of another Flemish poem some two hundred or more years earlier still; nor was even this by any means the earliest form of the story of Reynard. In the next place, it is now more than half a century since Jacob Grimm pointed out the absurdity of supposing that H. van Alkmer could have been, or that he ever pretended to be, the author of the *Reineke*, and the subsequent discovery of the fragments of a printed Flemish *Reinaert* (now in the Public Library at Cambridge, and believed by the late Henry Bradshaw to have been printed by Gerard Leeu at Antwerp about the year 1487) has gone far to establish the correctness of Grimm's conjecture as to the real meaning of the well-known passage in the preface to the *Reineke* of 1498, in which, as also in the second edition, printed at Rostock in 1517, Heinrich's name appears; and lastly, as to Hermann Barkhusen, there is not a particle of evidence to show that he was the author, nor has any one writer, so far as I can discover, with the exception of F. Zarncke (in Haupt's *Zeitschrift für deutsches Alterthum*, vol. ix., 1853), ever attempted anything like an argument on his behalf, and all that he has to say on the subject has been very ably disposed of by Dr. F. Latendorf in his essay, *Zur Kritik und Erklärung des Reineke Vos* (Schwerin, 1865).

Reineke Vos appeared for the first time in 1498, and was printed at Lübeck. We know that Barkhusen was about that time living there, and that he had a printing-press, and that some years afterwards he was at Rostock, and in 1510 he must have been in possession of the types with which the *Reineke* was printed, for there is still extant a letter which he wrote in that year to Duke Henry of Mecklenburg, sending at the same time two books as specimens of his types, requesting the duke to let him know which he would like to have used for a work which the duke had commissioned him to print; one of these he expressly says that he has just printed, and the other ("eyn ander boek von schympliken reden vnd schwengken REINEKE VOSS genompt") must clearly have been the *Reineke* of 1498, as it was the only edition then in existence, the second edition not having been printed till 1517, and this is absolutely all that we know about Barkhusen in connection with the work in question, viz., that twelve years after its production he was in possession of the types with which it was printed.

Having thus disposed of Hinrek van Alkmer and Hermann Barkhusen, a few words remain to be said about another person who for a long time was very confidently maintained to be the author, viz., Nicolaus Baumann. This tradition rests solely on the authority of a statement in Peter Lindeberg's *Chronicon Rostochiene*

written about the year 1590, *i.e.* more than sixty years after Baumann's death, and repeated by Rollenhagen in his preface to the *Froschmäuseler* (1595); but it was not until after the lapse of another sixty years, *viz.*, 1650, that Baumann's name appeared in any edition, although the book had in the meantime been often reprinted. Baumann, however, has been long ago given up, so that we need not waste any more words about him.

For the ordinary English reader who wishes to have the story of Reynard as told by Caxton in his translation of the Dutch prose version of 1479 without being troubled with his quaint spelling, and, which is far more puzzling, his very erratic punctuation (in many instances utterly destroying the sense), Professor Morley's edition in a recent volume of the *Carisbrooke Library* may be confidently recommended, so far as regards the text; but some of his explanations of obsolete words are unfortunately very erroneous. In Chapter V. he gives "*slavine and pilch*, old shoes (Dutch *sloffen*) and skin-coat," whereas the word "*slavine*" has nothing whatever to do with old shoes, nor with Dutch *sloffen*, but is simply the mediæval Latin *slavina*, a pilgrim's robe ("habitus peregrinus qui vulgo dicitur *slavina*," *Ducange*, s.v.). In Chapter VIII. we are told that *betels* are "heavy wooden mallets used for beating in wedges," but in the text it is the "*betels*" that are "smitten in, one after the other," and as soon as Bruin has put his head and forepaws into the cleft, Reynard plucks out these *betels*, and Bruin is caught. The word here used by Caxton is totally distinct from the more modern word "*beetle*" (= mallet), but is the equivalent of the Dutch *beitel*, which means a "chisel" or wedge ("*outil à fendre du bois*," *Halma*, s.v.). Chapter XIX.: *yamerde* is not a noun "*grief (jammer)*," but the past tense of the verb *jammeren*, "right as he hadde yammerde in his herte" being a literal translation of the original "*recht dus oft hem in sijn herte jammerde*."

Chapter XXIX.: *at an afterdele* does not mean "about to pass away," nor has "*afterdele*" any connection with Dutch *dalen*, to sink, but is adopted by Caxton from the Dutch *nadeel* (German *Nachtheil*) "disadvantage"; the opposite of *voordeel* (G. *Vortheil*).

The reader must also be on his guard against some erroneous statements in the Introduction, with regard to the literary history of the work. P. 12, after mentioning the *Ecbasis*, written about the year 936, the Editor says: "The next stage of growth is marked by the Latin poem *Ysengrimus*, which was first named *Reinardus Vulpes*. It was written about the year 1148 by a Flemish priest, Nivardus of Ghent." Now, in the first place, *Ysengrimus*

was never called anything but *Ysengrimus*; secondly, it was not written "about the year 1148," nor was it written by Nivardus, who was the author of *Reinardus Vulpes*, a very much longer poem, in which nearly the whole of the previous work was incorporated, a full half century or more after the appearance of *Ysengrimus*. Equally confused and inaccurate is the account (p. 13), of some later versions. The Flemish "Reinaert" is wrongly called "Reinhart," which is the title of the old High German poem; and the Low German of 1498 is not a translation of *Reinhart*, but of *Reinaert*; neither was Caxton's translation "made from the Low German" as here stated, but from the Dutch *prose* version (printed in 1479), and printed long before the Low German poem was in existence.

F. N.



Notes on Signatures.

II.

IT is evident that the two books (*Vincentius* and *Biblia Latina*), the peculiarities of which I described in the former article, illustrate two stages in the history of section-signatures corresponding to the stamped and printed stages of ordinary quire-signatures. This being the case, we naturally expect to find the first or manuscript kind of the one corresponding to the original type of the other; and this expectation is justified by the subjoined description of a book, which, though it has been rebound, still retains a sufficient number of its signatures to prove conclusively the class to which they belong. This, like the preceding, is one of the splendid collection of *incunabula* in the library of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

"Paulus de Sancta Maria, dialogus qui uocatur scrutinium scripturarum" (Hain *10763), printed in Mentellin's earlier type, with 39 lines to the page. The following MS. signatures, at the extreme edge, remain:—

- a. fo. 15 : a5. 21—25 : a1—a5. 26 : a (6).
- b. fo. 37 : b (5?). 53—6 : bj—4. 66 : b4.
- c. fo. 74 : c2. 76 : c (4). 83—7 : cj—5. 93—5 : cj—3.
- d. fo. 121—3 : dj—3. 125 : d5. 131—5 : dj—5. 141—4 : dj—4.
- e. fo. 164 : e (4).
- f. fo. 185 : f3. 193 : f1. 197 : f (5).

This description illustrates well the existence of manuscript section-signatures alone: but to complete the parallel with quire-signatures, it is necessary to find the two kinds co-existing, both in manuscript, in the same book. The following example, from the same library, though less conclusive than that given above, does not doubt supply the required link in the chain of evidence.

"Zophilogium editum a fratre Iacobo magni de Parisiis : ordinis heremitarem sancti Augustini" (Hain *10472; no subscription, but has the peculiar R).

There is a double set of MS. signatures: in the following list the section-signatures, which are erased, are placed last.

fo.	3	...	a.
	13—4	b [3—4]	...
	21—5	cj—5	aj—3
	31	d	...
	41—3	ej—3	...
	53	f 4	...
	58—62	gj 5	lj 4 ¹
	69—70	h 2—3	l 2—3
	78—82	jj—5	lj—5
	88—90	kj—3	lj—3
	95—97	l 2—4	...
	102—5	mj—4	cj—4
	110—14	nj—5	cj—5
	121	o 2	c 2
	133: 138	p 5: q j	...
	146, 149	rj, 4	aj, 4
	156—160	sj—5	fj—5 (j, 3
	169	t 4	...
	177—80	v 2—5	f 2—5 (3, 4)
	187—89	x 2—4	f 2—4 (3)
	194—98	yj—5	bj—5 (j)
	204—7	zj 4	bj—4 (j)
	215	aa 4	...

In the above, the third column appears to consist of evident, though somewhat irregular, section-signatures. But it is to be noticed that the two sets are in different hands, and the section-signatures are for the most part struck out by the writer of the quire-signatures.

Double signatures in manuscript (both quire-signatures) are by no means uncommon. The two following examples are from the Bodleian Library. The first is Hain *8962, "*Henricus Hostiensis de Segusio super titulis decretalium*," printed by Reyser at Eichstadt, and formerly belonging to the monastery of Buxheim. The five parts are bound in one thick volume, which is signed in a curious way (in the usual place for MS. signatures). The first alphabet is normal, a—z. With the second begin the double signatures, one in red, proceeding regularly, aa, bb, cc, and so on; the other in black,

¹ Is / a mistake for *o*?

following aa by ab, ac, ad, and so throughout. The third alphabet succeeds; the red has aaa, bbb, ccc: the black ba, bb, bc, &c.

The second example is a copy, unfortunately very imperfect, of the 1475 Ferrara *Teside* of Boccaccio (Hain 3308). In this case, the occurrence of double signatures seems due merely to error; in the last instance to a difference of taste between the original signer and the rubrisher. Here the later signatures mark the copy in its present mutilated condition, while the slightly earlier ones show what it should be. They begin with c=A, d=b, and continue so throughout. The occurrence of both shows only that the book has been in its present state since the fifteenth century.

My next instance shows MS. signatures at late dates and clearly imitating printed ones. This is a copy of "Matthaeus de Cracovia, Dyalogus inter Racionem et Conscienciam, printed at Eichstadt (Hain *5806), which can hardly be much earlier than 1480. It is signed a—c^s in a contemporary hand in the place where printed signatures would be found were there any.

Another curious variation in the position of MS. signatures is afforded by Auct. 5 Q. infra I. 12, "Calderini Repertorium iuris," printed by M. Wenssler, at Basel, in 1474 (Hain *4248). It is signed throughout in MS., and at the extreme edge, but at the interior corner of each leaf instead of the exterior. There is possibly something of the same sort on fo. 41 of the Zophilogium mentioned above, which has (what may be a signature) "d" in a similar position.

The last example I shall give is one not unrelated to this variety. Like the preceding four books, this is in the Bodleian [S. Selden e. 1. (3)]. *Liber de secretis Secretorum Aristotelis philosophi excellentissimi*, printed in Mentellin's semi-Gothic type about 1474, 26 lines, 4to. Quires a—b^s are unsigned (there were no doubt MS. signatures once); c—g^s are signed with separate hand-stamps (the same as those used for the Vincentius, and for the Concordance facsimiles by Mr. Blades) in the centre of the interior margin, at slightly varying heights, but always a little above the bottom of the text. Besides these there is a manuscript signature on E4 in extremely minute characters, the only one left. The stamps leave off after g, so that h^s and i^s are, like the first two quires, unsigned. It is unfortunate that the book is ploughed, otherwise no doubt we should find MS. signatures throughout.

R. G. C. PROCTOR.

Additional Notes to Blades' "Bibliographical Miscellanies."

NOS. III. IV. V.

Books in Chains.

THE following rough notes on chained books have been collected since the publication of *Bibliographical Miscellanies*. It is much to be regretted that Mr. Blades' labours were brought to a sudden close before he had time to complete his valuable contributions to this branch of bibliography. As the publishers of the *Miscellanies* contemplate printing a second edition of *Books in Chains*, perhaps the following suggestions may not be out of place.

It appears from Wood that, besides Fox's *Book of Martyrs*, and the *Bible*, Foulis' *History of the Plots and Conspiracies of our Pretended Saints the Presbyterians*, was often chained. "This book hath been so pleasing to the Royalists, that they have chained it to desks in public places for the vulgar to read." (Quoted by Arnett : *Books of the Ancients*, p. 115.)

CAMBRIDGE.—Very much might be written about chained libraries at Cambridge. In an account book of *St. John's College* is the following entry :—

"Anno 1556. For chains for the books in this library 3s. Anno 1560. For chaining the books in the library, 4s." (*Books of the Ancients*, p. 114.)

University Library.—As at the Bodleian, the books in this library were chained. The Articles of the library state : "Maie, 1582. If any chaine, clasps, rope, or such like decay happen to be, the said keeper to signify the same to the V.-Chancellor within three days after he shall spy such default, to the end the same may be mended."

On p. 8, Mr. Blades states, "not a single chained book is now to be seen in any of our Universities." I have seen several at Oxford, one at the Bodleian. Doubtless there are still some chained books at Cambridge.

CHEDDAR, SOMERSET.—The book has disappeared. Lord Macaulay saw this book, and Sir G. Trevelyan (*Life*, Vol. II., p. 319) records : "Nothing caused him (Lord Macaulay) so much pleasure as a visit to any scene that he had known in earlier days. . . . The church at Cheddar, where, as a child, he had sat of a Sunday afternoon longing to get at the great black-letter volume of the *Book of Martyrs*, which was chained to the neighbouring reading-desk."

COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE.—There is or was a chained book in one of the city churches. The Rev. James R. Mills, D.D., Vicar of St.

Michael's, writes under date 7th June, 1891: "There has been no chained book at St. Michael's within the memory of living man. There is a modern Bible given some ten years ago by our Scripture reader. It is called the Open Bible, and always lies open on a disused reading-desk in the Lady Chapel, the donor's desire being that anyone who wished to read God's Word might have an opportunity of doing so."

There is a parallel instance to this at Windsor, noted by Mr. Blades on p. 45.

ENFIELD.—By his will, dated 22nd August, 1481, Sir Thomas Lyttleton bequeathed "a boke called *Fasciculus Morum*, to the church at Enfield." The will contains other bequests of books and instructions for chaining them. *Vide* Hales Owen and King's Norton. The will is printed in Nicholas's *Testamenta Vetusta*.

ETON COLLEGE LIBRARY.—The books in the library of Eton College were chained as appears from the college accounts, quoted by F. St. J. Thackeray, F.S.A., in a paper read before the Library Association at Reading, in Sept. 1890, and printed in this magazine, vol. iii., No. xxvi., p. 56. Mr. Blades gives further particulars of Eton Library, on p. 5 (*Miscellanies*).

HALES OWEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.—"Parish Church. The Rector writes:—There are no chained books in Hales Owen that I am aware of" (*Miscellanies*, p. 25).

The Parish Church of Hales Owen should not be confused with the Abbey Church. The two were quite separate and distinct foundations. The parish church is still used, the abbey is a ruin. Mr. Blades gave a quotation from the will of Sir Thomas Lyttleton, 1481, wherein two books are bequeathed to the *Abbot* (John Derby, c. 1446—1486), and *Convent* of Hales Owen. Sir T. Lyttleton gave books to other churches, as appears elsewhere, and there are other and earlier bequests of books to the library of the same abbey.

By his will, dated 1383, John Lord Botetourt, Baron of Weoley or Warley Castle, near Birmingham, leaves twenty books, and to Richard de Hampton, Abbot of Hales Owen from 1369 to c. 1391, his executor, "4 lib et mon bokle appelle 'welcome.'" (*Art Student*, Birmingham, July, 1886.)

What became of the books is not now known, but if the Scudamore Papers in the British Museum were searched perhaps some account of them might be found. John Scudamore was the king's receiver in this matter (see a paper by Mr. F. R. Holliday. *Transactions*, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Arch. section, 1871).

It appears, however, from entries in the Churchwardens' Accounts (Nash, *Hist. Worc.*, ii. p. xxix), that some of the furniture of the abbey was bought for the use of the parish church in 1539. No books are mentioned, but after charges made for removing the rood from the abbey, the organs, and a certain table or picture of St. Kenelm, it is recorded that:—

"For carriage of three loads of stuff from the Abbey," the Warden's paid 6d. The books may or may not have been among that "stuff."

KING'S NORTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.—By his will, dated 22nd August, 1481, Sir Thomas Lyttleton, before mentioned, bequeathed "a boke called *Medulla Grammatica*" to the Church of King's Norton. This book is not now in the church, nor, so far as I am aware, in the ancient school library.

MALVERN : WORCESTER.—*Misc.*, p. 35. "The Abbey" should be "The Priory," but the church is commonly, though erroneously, called an abbey. The chained book, and the lectern to which it is attached, were presented to the church by a Fellow of an Oxford college. The book, which has lost its title-pages, is *The Companion to The Temple*, and not a prayer-book. Mr. James Nott, of Malvern, author of several valuable works on the history of Malvern Priory, writes under date May 30th, 1891 : "The chained book now remaining in our church is one of two books presented by an unknown donor from Oxford in 1701. The churchwardens were desired to take care and to 'chain' them in some convenient place 'free from raine' for 'the use of the parishioners of Great Malvern.'

"Both works were by Dr. Comber.

"The one book was on '*Infant Baptism*,' the other was entitled '*A Companion to the Temple ; or, A Help to Devotion in the Use of Common Prayer*.' The book on Infant Baptism and the title-page to the other book have long ago disappeared."

OXFORD.—Many additions might be made to the list under this head. The books in nearly all, if not all, the college libraries, dating from before the middle of the seventeenth century, were chained. This certainly was the case at Merton and at the Bodleian. Perhaps one of the members of the Library Association residing at Oxford will kindly supply a list of ancient chained libraries in Oxford? The Rev. W. D. Macray has given many interesting particulars respecting the chaining and unchaining of books in the Bodleian (see *Annals of The Bodleian*, 2nd edition).

ST. MARY BOURNE CHURCH, HANTS.—Formerly an oak lectern, with several books chained thereto, stood in the church of St. Mary Bourne. The books are said to have been removed about the year 1838. The lectern and a chain attached to it are now preserved in Reading Museum. It is thus described :

"Table for chained Bible, Martyrs' Book, etc., from St. Mary Bourne, Hants. Extracts relating to it :

"1683.—Paid for a horse to fetch the Book of Martyrs from Reading, 3s.

"1686.—For the Book of Homilies, 12s. 6d.

"1706.—Pd for a chaine for ye book, £00. 01s. 00d.

"1705.—A Common Prayer-book, 11s.

"1705.—Binding of ye two books, 14s.

"1752.—Ap! 1st pd for 2 chains for Martyrs Book, 3s.

"1773.—Binding ye great Bible, 7s. 6d.

(*The Antiquary*, vol. iv., Nov. 22nd, 1873.)

STANDON : STAFFORDSHIRE.—The Rector reported to Mr. Blades : "We have not a chained Bible at Standon." (*Misc.*, p. 79.) But in *The History of Standon*, by Ed. Salt, B.A., Rector of Standon, p. 167, it is written : "The Book of Martyrs, which was chained to the pulpit at Standon, has this inscription : 'William Lovatt gave this book to the church of Standon, there to be kept for the use of the parishioners to read in before and after prayers on Sundays, holidays, and other convenient times. That they may see the great happiness they enjoy in having the free exercise of religion, and if God gives them grace to rise, it is to His glory they will be happy whilst they live here, to all eternity. That so they might do was the hearty prayer of W. L.'" The copy is dated 1583. William Lovatt was churchwarden at Standon in A.D. 1685.

YORK : ST. CRUX PARISH CHURCH.—The fine old carved lectern and chained book have been engraved for *The Comprehensive History of England*, published by Blackie and Son, Vol. I., p. 210.

The late M. H. Bloxam devoted several pages to Church Libraries in *A Companion to the Principles of Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture* (1882), p. 220, *et seq.* : "Besides the monastic libraries dispersed on the dissolution of the religious houses, and the cathedral libraries still in existence, though composed for the most part of works printed since the Reformation, certain churches had, previous to that period gifts, or bequests of books, *to be fastened or chained*, so that they should not be readily parted with, stolen, or embezzled." Mr. Bloxam instances the will of Sir T. Lyttleton, before quoted, and mentions also the article in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* on libraries, where a list of over one hundred English parish libraries is quoted, but no reference given. Mr. Bloxam then proceeds to enumerate nine parish libraries, but does not state whether the books are or are not chained. Only one of the nine libraries, that of Grantham, is mentioned by Mr. Blades. The second, "All Saints, *Lichfield*," is probably an error for *Hereford*. In the vestry of St. Mary's, *Warwick*, is a small collection of books. In the vestry of the parish church, *Great Yarmouth*, Norfolk, is a library. In *Langley Church*, Bucks, a small library left by Sir John Kederminster with express injunction that no book should ever be taken out of it. This library contains several scarce books, including a copy of the *Sarum Missal*. *Finedon*, Northamptonshire, a library in a small chamber over the church porch. *Henley-on-Thames*, a library founded by Dean Aldrich, 1737. *Llanteglos*, a library in the Parsonage House. *Stanton*, near Stockton-upon-Tees, co. Durham, a small library in the Parsonage House.

The three last mentioned can hardly be called chained libraries.

W. SALT BRASSINGTON.

(To be continued.)

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be promptly forwarded.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—The corner-stones of the new free library and technical schools to be erected by trustees of the late Mr. George Heginbottom, at a cost of £10,000, were laid on June 6.

BRADFORD: YORKSHIRE.—The Bradford Public Library has received as a gift a valuable collection of manuscripts and papers relating to the town of Bradford, formed by the late Mr. Edward Hailstone, F.S.A., of Walton Hall.

CAMBRIDGE.—On May 14 a Grace passed the Senate rescinding an order of June, 1751, which directed that library fines should be paid into the general fund of the University. In future the fines will be used for library purposes.

CARDIFF.—The authorities of the Free Library at Cardiff have just purchased the Tonn Library, which is one of the best collections of Welsh printed books existing. It was formed by the late Mr. William Rees, of Tonn, near Llandovery, from whose office were issued the publications of the Welsh MSS. Society.

HARTLEPOOL.—The result of the poll of the ratepayers of Hartlepool on the Library question was announced on June 5. The voting papers in favour numbered 1,418, and those against 478, showing a majority of 940 for the establishment of the institution.

LONDON: BETHNAL GREEN.—The *Record* of June 6 contains an interesting account of "A Visit to the Bethnal Green Free Library."

LONDON: BROMLEY.—On May 27 a public meeting was held at the Bromley Vestry Hall in furtherance of the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts for Bromley. The Rev. G. A. M. How presided, and amongst the speakers were the Bishop of Bedford, Mr. Walter Hunter, the Rev. A. E. Dalton, Mr. J. H. Oxley, the Hon. R. Grosvenor, and the Rev. H. J. Weatherhead. A resolution in favour of the adoption of the Acts was passed with only a few dissentients.

LONDON: GLADSTONE LIBRARY.—Mr. Walter S. Culver, formerly assistant to the Lovejoy Library, Reading, has been appointed assistant at the Gladstone Library, National Liberal Club.

LONDON: HACKNEY.—Sir Charles Russell, M.P., on June 2 addressed a meeting of his constituents in the Eton Mission Hall, Hackney Wick, on the subject of Free Libraries. The chair was occupied by the Rev. W. M. Carter, M.A., Bishop-designate of Zululand, and he was supported by Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, M.P., Mr. J. Branch, L.C.C., Mr. Hill, and a number of other influential gentlemen of the district. Sir Charles said he knew that the present burthen of the rates bore heavily

on the occupiers, but he could not think that the library rate would in any appreciable degree increase their burthen. The question was, Would it be worth while to undergo the so-called increased imposts to obtain the advantages which the free libraries conferred? He thought it would. A free library meant that there would be at the disposal and within the reach of all those who desired to retain the education which they had received at the public schools, a means for doing so, and those who desired to improve that education would have the opportunity of doing that by wholesome literature in their midst. He felt it was a desirable object from any point of view to increase the knowledge and facilitate the general instruction of the whole community. The better men were educated, the better would they understand the duties and rights of citizenship. A resolution in favour of the movement was adopted.

LONDON: ISLINGTON.—The Islington ratepayers have again decided not to have a free library. On June 10 the result of the latest poll on the question was made known as follows: For, 7,542; against, 10,912; majority against, 3,370. Considering that there has lately been little or no public agitation carried on in the parish, or public meetings held in advocacy of the merits and utility of free public libraries, the result of the poll, in the face of increased and increasing local rating, is not surprising, nor is it regarded as fatal to their future hopes by the supporters of the Acts. A penny in the pound, the maximum rate allowed, was asked for; and had it been conceded, it would, upon the present assessment, have sufficed to provide four, if not five, libraries in different parts of this great parish, to which there was, says the *Globe*, a likelihood of more than one wealthy inhabitant making gifts of valuable books.

LONDON: KENSINGTON.—A grocer's assistant named George Pearce, living in Portland Road, Notting Hill, was charged on May 25 with stealing eight books, the property of the Library Commissioners of Kensington. The books were found by Detective-sergeant Brown at the prisoner's lodgings, and they were identified by Mr. Herbert Jones, the librarian, who said they had been taken from the three libraries in the parish, Kensington, Notting Hill, and Brompton. He stated that the prisoner had no right to remove the books from the libraries, and produced forms which had been passed in by the prisoner for them, with different names and addresses. The prisoner told the magistrate that he intended to return the books. Mr. Curtis Bennett committed the prisoner for three months, with hard labour.

LONDON: NEWINGTON.—The Public Libraries Commissioners of Newington have decided to build a central library in the Walworth Road, on a site adjoining the vestry hall, and for this purpose the vestry have sanctioned the borrowing of the sum of £4,750 by the Library Commissioners, repayable by fifty equal annual instalments.

LONDON: THE LONDON LIBRARY.—On May 28 the annual meeting of the members of the London Library was held at that institution in St. James's Square, under the presidency of the Dean of Westminster, and there was a very numerous attendance. The fiftieth annual general report of the committee was agreed to after some explanation of the accounts by Mr. Sydney Gedge, M.P. The committee reported that the leading idea of the knot of distinguished men who originated the scheme of the library and effected its establishment was to provide a lending library in the metropolis, from which a class of books could be obtained such as ordinary and existing circulating libraries did not supply, and the use of which must otherwise be restricted to those who could purchase them or were able to resort at great expense of time and trouble to the British Museum. A noble collection of valuable works of the most important classes had

been accumulated, and the librarian would vouch for the extent to which they were made serviceable by those for whose especial service the library was designed. Nor must it be supposed that this class of advantages was restricted to those who were either habitually or professionally engaged in authorship. The numbers were happily large of those who cultivated familiarity with remote and even recondite literature, in the pure interest of intellectual culture or elegant accomplishments. For such readers the power of applying to study in their own homes, and at whatever times might be most convenient, was as invaluable as even to the author with his constant references and cross-references. Large as was the collection already of serious, solid, and permanent literature, it admitted of further extension, and recommendations for purchase by workers and students were among the chief guides to such judicious extension. At the present time their position was briefly this : That they had a most valuable collection of books, demanding an increased insurance ; were occupants of their own freehold, with means of future extension of already enlarged accommodation ; were able even to anticipate the regulated repayment of debentures ; and had a balance which had enabled the committee to maintain an efficient staff, to attend to the sound binding of dilapidated books, and to enter upon the expensive but very important business of multiplying copies of the works which were most, and most deservedly, in demand. Mr. Sydney Gedge proposed the re-election of Mr. Herbert Spencer, Professor Huxley, Sir F. W. Burton, Mr. St. George Mivart, and the election of Dr. Rigg and Mr. Walter Besant on the committee. Mr. Cobden Saunderson, as an amendment, moved that Miss Shaw-Lefevre and Miss Beatrice Potter should be elected in the place of two of the names submitted to the meeting. Mrs. Winter Phillips seconded the amendment, which was supported by Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., Mr. Sydney Webb, Mr. Conybeare, and others. A long discussion ensued, and as the amendment was not withdrawn the names of the members to be re-elected were submitted and agreed to, and then the chairman put to the vote the names of Miss Potter, for which there were thirteen votes and forty-four against, and of Miss Shaw-Lefevre, the voting for whom was twelve and forty-six against. Dr. Rigg and Mr. Walter Besant were then elected, and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

LONDON : WEST HAM.—On June 9th the Town Council appointed Mr. Alfred Cotgreave, formerly librarian of the Guille-Allés Library, Guernsey, to the librarianship of the West Ham Public Library.

LONGTON.—The ratepayers of Longton have adopted the Libraries Acts by a vote of almost two to one.

STALEYBRIDGE.—Mr. Angus McLeod, late librarian of the Nicholson Institute at Leek, has been appointed librarian of the Staleybridge Public Library.

TRURO.—A gentleman visited the Truro Public Library recently, and expressed himself well pleased with the utility of the institution, and also with the management. He said his visit might result in a small gift, and a few days later Mr. Gibson, the librarian, received the sum of £30 to be spent in the purchase of books for the institution.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—The result of the poll on the question of adopting the Public Libraries Acts was declared on June 26th, with the following result : in favour, 1,966 ; against, 968 ; majority in favour, 998. There were 7,930 papers issued. The net produce of the penny rate will be £600.

LIBRARIANS OF THE MERSEY DISTRICT.—The usual quarterly meeting was held, on the joint invitation of Messrs. Shaw and W. Jones, at Liverpool, on Friday 29th May. Assembling at the Athenæum, the

members spent a short time in the inspection of some of the treasures contained in the library, and afterwards proceeded to the Medical Institution, where tea was served and the remainder of the business transacted. After some specimens of binding by Mr. Fazakerly, of Liverpool, had been examined, the meeting discussed the question of how far Poole's Index could be relied on as a substitute for analytical entries in cataloguing collectaneous works. The paper of the evening was by Mr. Shaw, on "Public Free Libraries *versus* Proprietary Institutions," in which he advocated specialization of proprietary libraries, especially in the provision of the more advanced works, and co-operation with the free library by the admission of recommended students as readers, whether members or not. From the discussion which followed, in which Messrs. Cowell, Sutton, W. Jones, May, Ogle, and Formby took part, it appeared that some informal relegation of readers from one library to another does occasionally take place by the same process which Mr. Shaw desires to see officially recognised and provided for. The meeting concluded with the usual votes of thanks to the committees of the Athenæum and Medical Institution, and to Mr. and Mrs. Jones and Mr. Shaw. The next meeting will be held, on the invitation of Mr. Folkard, at Wigan, in the autumn.

CHARLES MADELEV, Secretary.

THE *St. James's Gazette* says that strict instructions were issued by the Government of India that every effort should be made by the troops to preserve everything of literary or antiquarian value that might be found in Manipur, for it was supposed that in the "city of jewels" there existed a valuable ancient literature. A temple within the palace walls which escaped the conflagration that followed the flight of the Regent has been found to contain apparently a large library, which will be opened hereafter.

Record of Bibliography.

A Complete Bibliography of the Art of Fence, comprising that of the Sword and of the Bayonet, Duelling, etc. With a classified index. By Carl A. Thimm. *London: F. Thimm and Co., 1891, 12mo, pp. xii., 261.*

Despite its classified index, Captain Thimm's work is a little difficult to use. The whole point of a special bibliography is that it should exhibit the works written on the given subject in the order of their appearance, whereas not only in the bibliography itself, but in the index also, Captain Thimm has arranged the works he enumerates in the alphabetical order of their authors' names. In the index the date of publication is also added, so that with a little patience the chronological order can be made out; but in the longer headings this is tedious work, and should have been done by the author. In itself the bibliography, which includes articles in newspapers and magazines as well as books, appears to be well done; but it is stuffed out with a large number of poems, pamphlets, and sermons on the wickedness of duelling, which have about as much to do with the art of fence as the Church Catechism. To make his bibliography quite complete, Captain Thimm has inserted in it his own work, and as no published bibliography ever yet has been complete, the arrogance of his intention has been justly punished by his having entered it with a wrong date. Exception may also be fairly taken to his talk of the German and French *editions* of his English work. In each instance the text is the same, the notes remaining in our vulgar tongue. All that has been done for the benefit of the foreign reader is to translate the title-page, and

a page or two of preface—a proceeding of rather questionable morality, as it certainly tends to conceal the fact that the three “editions” are substantially the same work, and struck off from the same setting-up of types.

Le Morte Darthur. By Syr Thomas Malory. Faithfully reprinted from the original edition (1485) of William Caxton. Edited by H. Oskar Sommer, Ph.D. London: David Nutt, 1889—91, 8vo, 3 vols.

As in the case of Mr. Warner's *Mandeville* some months ago, we may turn aside for a few moments from the survey of catalogues and histories of printing to give a welcome to an edition of an English classic, which may fairly claim some notice in a *Record of Bibliography* on the ground of its elucidation of the sources from which the work was derived, and of the relation of its various editions. Dr. Sommer's discoveries cannot claim to be quite as exciting as those which Mr. Warner had to record. About Malory himself he has unearthed no fresh information—probably for the good reason that there is none to be unearthed—and as the worthy knight alludes repeatedly to “the Frenche bookes” as the sources of his narrative, the fact that the *Mort d'Arthur* is a compilation, or *rifacimento*, did not wait to be established. But though the fact was known from Malory's own acknowledgment, the how and the whence had been very imperfectly investigated, and it was to these questions that Dr. Sommer directed his researches. In addressing himself to this task, the unwearying labour which he had previously bestowed on reproducing with exactness the text of Caxton's edition of 1485, and collating it with that of Wynkyn de Worde, formed the most valuable part of his equipment. Copying, collation, and proof-reading had so impressed Malory's very words and phrases on his recollection, that he was prepared to recognise them, in French or English, wherever they might be met with; and it is to this admirable knowledge of his author that Dr. Sommer owes some of his most valuable discoveries.

The romances out of which Malory built up his great work are connected with four names—those of Merlin, Arthur, Lancelot, and Tristan. In dealing with the Merlin legend, which relates mainly to the ancestry, birth, and early history of King Arthur, we have to distinguish between (1) the Vulgate *Merlin*; (2) an abridged version, with many variants, known as the *Suite de Merlin*; (3) a prose version, by Robert de Boron. In editing the second of these from the unique Huth MS. in 1885, M. Gaston Paris roughly indicated the relation of these several versions to the first four books of Malory; but Dr. Sommer has for the first time worked out this relation minutely, summarizing each of the three works, and pointing out with scrupulous exactness the modifications (usually very insignificant) introduced by Malory.

The two romances in which the name of the King himself is used in the title, unlike Malory's other sources, are both in English, the first, *La Morte Arthur*, existing in a Thornton MS., edited for the Early English Text Society in 1871; and the second, *Le Morte Arthur*, edited from Harl. MS. 2,332, by Dr. Furnivall, seven years earlier. The first is used in Malory's fifth book, the second, in conjunction with the *Lancelot*, in Books XVIII., XX., and XXI. In neither case does Malory own any obligation to an English work; yet the obligation cannot be doubted. “The bore . . . betokeneth some tyraunt that tormenteth the people,” Malory writes in Book V., reproducing a line from the Thornton MS., alliteration and all. The evidence for the use of the Harleian version in the later books is even stronger, and is accompanied by some suggestions that Malory was a careless reader. “That was of warre wyse and bolde” is distorted into the common phrase, “that was

ware" (wary) "and wyse"; so, too, the phrase "And shredde them down" (slaughtered them) "as shepe in folde" is perverted into "and shrede them down as shepe in a felde," or field, where the sheep would be able to run away!

Indisputable, however, as these instances are, it seems certain that in each case Malory had a French source before him, and only used the English metrical version as an additional help; and Dr. Sommer, though he is not quite free from the tendency of the discoverer of a "source" to exaggerate its importance, in each instance states this very fairly at the close of his chapter. It is, perhaps, in treating of the books dealing with the Lancelot legend that he may claim the greatest credit for his editorial acumen. Here Malory's account is consistent with itself, but is not consistent with the Vulgate *Lancelot*, while it also omits the account there given of the hero's ancestry and birth, which are really needed for the proper understanding of his career. Dr. Sommer was thus led to conjecture that Malory made no use of the ordinary *Lancelot* itself, but must have had recourse to an independent abridgment of the legend, similar to the abridgments of the stories of Merlin. The hypothesis was hardly committed to print before it was verified by the accidental discovery of a fragment of a Lancelot legend embedded in a *Tristan*, which exactly corresponded with Malory, and differed in exactly the same manner from the Vulgate version. Seldom, indeed, has fortune so favoured a critical hypothesis! The *Tristram* books in Malory offered little difficulty to the investigator. They are, for the most part, with slight abridgment, taken from the Vulgate French *Tristan*, while some incidents are borrowed from an enlarged version of its second part. Dr. Sommer, however, thinks it probable that Malory did not harmonize these two editions himself, but had access to a *Tristan Trilogy* now lost, from which he translated without substantial alteration. This lost *Trilogy*, the lost *Suite de Lancelot*, the French original of Malory's Book V., and of the Thornton MS., and unknown authorities for Book VII. and the end of Book IV., remain to be discovered; otherwise Dr. Sommer enables the reader to trace to its source every incident in Malory's ponderous work. How far the labours of his latest and most indefatigable editor should affect our estimate of Malory's contribution to English literature is a question too wide for discussion in these pages. The numerous sources from which he borrowed gives him a title to rank as much more than a mere translator, and yet the formlessness and lack of unity of the *Morte d'Arthur*, considered as a whole, forbids us to allow him the possession of creative genius. At times, too, as in his preference for the trivial and commonplace version of the episode of Merlin and Vivien in the *Suite de Merlin* over the far more poetical account in the Vulgate, he showed positive bad taste. But his style is delightful, and if he sometimes missed good points, he is often skilful in omissions, so that his book, far from deserving the pedantic censure of old Roger Ascham, is one of the healthiest and most exhilarating in all literature.

A unique feature in Dr. Sommer's edition is his use of tables, by means of which he indicates to a page Malory's exact indebtedness to each of his various authorities. It is by a table, too, that he exhibits the relation of the twelve editions which have preceded his own. Only one of these, that of Robert Southey in 1817, professes to give Caxton's text in his own words, and the value of this is lessened by Southey's having printed from an incomplete copy, in which the missing leaves were supplied not from an original, but from a later edition by Wynkyn de Worde. Other editions issued in the present century are either modernized or abridged, or take the text, not from the fountain-head, but from Stansby's edition of 1634.

Catalogue of the Crawford Library of the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh. [With preface signed R. Copeland.] *Published by authority of H.M. Government, Edinburgh. Printed by Milne and Hutchinson, Aberdeen, 1890, large 4to, pp. viii., 497.*

Those who have been accustomed to accept Lord Crawford's name as a guarantee for good catalogues will not be disappointed with the connected Catalogue of the Crawford Library of the Edinburgh Royal Observatory. Our readers will remember that this collection was presented to the Observatory, in 1888, "by James Ludovic, Earl of Crawford." In regard to its composition, we learn from the preface of the present work that the "original nucleus was formed by the library of the late Charles Babbage . . . acquired in 1872, to which were subsequently added works in Astronomy, Physics, and Pure Mathematics, and, in particular, Tracts or Essays on Comets." A number of very rare works were also transferred from Haigh Hall, Lancashire. The cataloguing of the library was commenced by Lord Crawford, continued by Mr. Robert Copeland, and eventually completed by Mr. Ralph Copeland, with the able assistance of Dr. L. Becker, the proofs being revised by Mr. J. P. Edmond. The catalogue is an alphabetical one, arranged chiefly according to the authors' names, but in order to facilitate reference, a certain subject-classification, comprehensive yet simple, has been successfully introduced. The manuscripts contained in the collection have been appended at the end of the volume (pp. 485-497).

In regard to the titles, it is very evident that the greatest pains have been bestowed upon them to render them as accurate and full as possible, and the contents of the more important serial works have been set out. We must also bestow a word of praise on the type—which is very clear—the subheadings standing out in good relief, and the dates of publication being brought into proper line. In fine, we need scarcely say that the work will be greatly welcomed by students of astronomy and the connected sciences.

Library Association Record.

The June monthly meeting of the Association was held at Messrs. Braby and Co.'s, Deptford, on 9th June. After inspecting the works, the members and their friends met in the club-room, and partook of a substantial tea kindly provided by the firm.

After tea Mr. Arthur C. Moore (a member of the firm) took the chair, and Mr. G. R. Humphrey, hon. sec. of the club, read a capital paper on the "Literary Associations of Deptford." On the motion of Mr. Thomas Mason, seconded by Mr. Joseph Gilbert, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Humphrey, and on the motion of Mr. B. F. Stevens, seconded by Mr. C. T. Davis, a similar compliment was paid to Messrs. Braby for their hospitality, and to Mr. A. C. Moore for his performance of the duties of chairman.

The meeting was altogether a most successful and pleasant one.

ANNUAL MEETING. NOTTINGHAM, 1891.

The secretaries will be glad to receive offers of papers for the approaching meeting.

It has been proposed that a morning should be given up to a discussion of short notes and queries on practical subjects, and this will be arranged, provided a sufficient number of notes or offers of notes be sent in before the end of July.

It is hoped that members will do their best to co-operate with Mr. Briscoe in his efforts to organize an exhibition of library appliances.

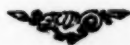
Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Hanover Square, W.—Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publishers, 60, Paternoster Row, E.C.

Verses by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes.

*(Written in a copy of "Over the Teacups," presented by the author
to Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister.)*

DEAL gently with us, ye who read !
Our largest hope is unfulfilled,
The promise still outruns the deed,
The tower, but not the spire we build.

Our whitest pearl we never find :
Our ripest fruit we never reach ;
The flowering moments of the mind
Lose half their petals in our speech.



The Library at San Marino.

AS every schoolboy knows, San Marino is an independent State, thirty-two square miles in area, standing on a rock of the Apennines, some three leagues from the east coast of Italy ; it is a close oligarchy, governed by two "Captains-Regent" and a Council of Sixty ; and it can boast of being one of the oldest and quite the most ridiculous nation in Europe. The chief delight of its pretentious villagers is to display all the attributes of a Sovereign State, and, having secured their own flag, their own pennies and their own postage-stamps, they one day bethought them that it might be rather an idea to found a National Library in their capital. In keeping with the opéra-bouffe character of the country and the evident desire of its citizens not to take life too seriously, this library is distinctly stagey and unreal, requiring an inordinate quantity of limelight to carry it off.

The National Library of San Marino, like that of Great Britain, adjoins a Museum. At the present moment the State Palace is in process of re-building, and the curiosities have been huddled out of the Museum to make room for those yet greater curiosities, the Sixty Councillors of the Realm. The chamber is, however, none the less interesting for the absence of either. There is always the boundless view from the old arched windows over the blue mountains and across the russet plain of Rimini, stretching from the silver streamlet, which marks the ancient Rubicon, away through the haze to Urbino, the birthplace of Raphael, and along the ill-defined coast, if the imagination be coaxed, as far as the dockyards of Ancona. And there is a Madonna by Giulio Romano, barbarously flanked by a hideous medallion of Victor Emmanuel ; a modern allegorical picture of the Hermit Marino conferring liberty upon a florid damsel intended to represent the Republic ; and lastly—*mais que diable allait-il faire dans cette galère ?*—a portrait of George Washington. After toying with the Councillors' ballot-boxes, and listening to a confused explanation of their mysterious roll-call, which consists of hollow ivory pellets, each containing a scroll with a councillor's name upon

it, I followed the garrulous custodian to the room where the contents of the Museum are now housed, or rather huddled.

For some occult reason there were quite as many curiosities (if that is the right word for the contents of a museum that are in no sense curious) connected with Victor Emmanuel and Louis Napoleon as with the Republic of San Marino. Not merely diplomas and documents, associating those unworthies with the Republic, but portraits, medals, coins, ribbons, and trumpery relics, which would have been scouted in a parish library at home. One thing of interest, however, I did find, and that was a fairly complete collection of bronze medals of the House of Savoy, including portraits of several princes, who, but for the Act of Settlement, would have reigned in Great Britain. For the rest I was not engrossed by sheets of postage-stamps, illuminated addresses to and from insignificant people, or specimens of native art. So I hastened to ask for the library, and, being handed over to another custodian, was conducted to a large untidy room, where some eleven thousand books were stored in approved confusion.

The library is only interesting from the State papers it contains and the means they afford of studying the history and constitution of the quaintest State in Christendom. The disorder of the place must be my warrant for eschewing chronological order. Let me begin with Garibaldi's letter. On first entering the village of San Marino I had noticed the following melodramatic inscription on the wall of a coffee-house :

IN QUESTA CASA
IL 31 LUGLIO 1849
GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI
STRETTO DELLE ARMI TEDESCHÉ
RIFIUTTÒ I PATTI DELLA RESA
RISERBANDOSI A TEMPI MIGLIORI.¹

Here in the library was a letter from the marauder himself, confirming this connection with the Republic :

My guide was old enough to remember the incident, and could describe it graphically. On the 29th of July, 1849, a messenger had come from Garibaldi, craving permission to pass through the San Marino territory, but the council prudently refused to allow the neutrality of the Republic to be violated. Next morning, however, as the sun was beginning to light up the plain of Rimini, the

¹ In this house, on the 31st of July, 1849, Joseph Garibaldi, hard pressed by the German arms, refused the conditions of surrender, reserving himself for better times.

citizens, early afoot in those anxious times, descried his ragged regiment upon a neighbouring slope. Hungry and haggard, with little more than a torn red shirt to their backs, hatless, shoeless, almost unarmed, these dismayed and hunted bandits offered a striking contrast to the pursuers, who presently appeared upon the opposite heights, with their nodding plumes, their helmets glistening in the rising sun, and the gay music of their bands. Then Garibaldi appeared, and, seeking out the Captains-Regent, implored for food and shelter, offered to lay down his arms, and announced that his 'war of independence' was then and there at an end. His prayer was granted, and while the refugees were being fed in the public square (a scene to which my narrator did full justice) an officer of the Republic was despatched to treat with the Austrians. They were naturally unwilling to make any terms with rebels, but, at the instances of the envoy, they agreed to conclude a convention with the Republic of San Marino, whereby Garibaldi should surrender his arms and treasury, receiving for himself and his family a passport to America, while his soldiers should be allowed to return to their respective homes. These terms, as we have seen from his letter, Garibaldi refused, and, taking two hundred picked men, he escaped across the hills to Venice, reserving himself, according to the inscription on the caffè, for what may or may not be considered 'better times.' The remainder of his followers then sought to take refuge in San Marino, but the citizens closed the gates, and kept them out by force. This infuriated the refugees, and they were only pacified by a distribution of money and maps, showing the road to Rimini, while the Republic had to use her best diplomacy in order to persuade the Austrians that she had not connived at the escape of Garibaldi.

My guide proved so charming a narrator of this thrilling episode of his national history, that, when we turned over the documents dealing with Cardinal Alberoni's occupation of San Marino, I begged him to be once more my interpreter. It appeared, however, that his memory did not go back quite so far, but he made amends by unearthing for me a copy of Malagola's exhaustive work, treating of that episode. It appears that in the year 1739 it occurred to the Pope to annex San Marino to his states, and he accordingly despatched Cardinal Alberoni there unofficially with an army. The Captains-Regent were in disagreement as to his Eminence's reception: one of them caused the gates of San Marino to be closed at the approach of the invaders, but next morning his colleague opened the gates and admitted them. The Cardinal thereupon pronounced the

ancient constitution at an end, appointed a *gonfaloniere*, and two assessors to govern the town, and convened the notables to the cathedral, there to swear allegiance to the Pope. All, however, was not plain sailing: the malcontent Captain-Regent headed an unexpected opposition, and, instead of oaths of fealty, the Cardinal heard shouts of defiance, the very priest at the altar joining in the cheers for independence. There seems to have been a most turbulent and dramatic scene, but Alberoni was swift in his reprisals. The ring-leaders were at once seized and conveyed to the Fort della Rocca, at the summit of the mountain; the town was put to the sack, and for the next three months the soldiers remained in occupation, to enforce the Papal Government. At the end of that period, however, through the intervention of Louis XV., they were withdrawn, and on February the 5th, 1740—a day still honoured by the citizens—Pope Clement XII. re-established the independence of the Republic by treaty. The documents in the Library, relating to the affair, are chiefly concerned with the French King's intervention and the diplomatic correspondence which brought about the treaty of independence.

Among the older papers were many musty charters, which careful investigation would doubtless have rendered interesting. The custodian showed me with especial pride an old chart, purporting to be of the ninth century, and marking in plain figures the castle and church of San Marino, and he ferreted out a commentary upon Dante, of almost primæval appearance, written by one Benvenuto da Imola, in which we found allusion to San Marino as '*castrum naturali situ munitissimum, ottimum, distans a Sancto Leone per quatuor millia, et ab Arimino decem, mirabile fortilitium.*' These were evidently show documents, as my guide knew his way about them suspiciously well. A paper, bearing Cæsar Borgia's autograph, is also presumably important, as the local photographer has been to the trouble of reproducing it.

The modern books in the library were an amazingly motley crew, a portion evidently being intended for the light reading of the citizens, but looking about as much thumbed as the tomes in Sleeping Beauty's castle, and the rest having certainly been bought at so much the kilogramme second-hand. Quantity, not quality, was the order of the day. I am told the library was begun in 1839, but that it remained almost bookless until one day an American gentleman, named Tucker, benevolently settled £100 a year upon it, in consideration of which he was made a peer by the Republic. A marble slab, commemorative of this transatlantic munificence,

adorned the entrance hall, and I was shown a sumptuously bound little history of San Marino, translated into English by Patrician Tucker, a work doubtless well intentioned, but of unequal literary merit. The great history of San Marino is Cavaliere Delfico's exhaustive *Memorie Storiche della Repubblica di S. Marino*, in three volumes, which I have since bought and waded through. Like most Italian histories it is little more than a mass of raw material, without life, colour, or philosophy, but the material has been collected with infinitely patient care, and would enable a good descriptive writer to produce an entertaining book.

On the whole, a visit to this opéra-bouffe library is not unamusing; but if the place is ever to be of any practical use to students, whether native or foreign, it will be necessary to get the books into some sort of order, and compile a catalogue, for at present the only chance of finding anything lies in the retentiveness of the custodian's memory, which though perhaps at present a thing of beauty, can certainly not be expected to remain a joy for ever.

HERBERT VIVIAN.



The Exhibition of Bookbindings at the Burlington Fine Arts Club.

II.

AT the beginning of the sixteenth century Venice was the literary metropolis of Europe. Her printers exceeded in number those of all the other towns of Italy, and their editions, both for accuracy of text and grace of form, were not only unsurpassed but unrivalled. The early printers were, for the most part, their own bookbinders, and thus the appropriate binding of books could not fail to receive at Venice a special attention. Surveying the whole history of gilt binding, Miss Prideaux is certainly justified in speaking of the art as mainly a French one. With the decadence of Venetian printing in the middle of the sixteenth century—so ably traced by Mr. Horatio Brown in his history of the Venetian Press—the sceptre of binding passed from Italy to France, and with France it has ever since remained. But it was at Venice that gold tooling was first introduced into Europe—in its most primitive form, perhaps, as early as 1470—and the Venetian bindings of the first half of the sixteenth century possess a combined richness of tone and simplicity and grace of form which are scarcely, if at all, outweighed by the greater elaboration and superior technical skill of the best French binders.

The panel stamps used towards the end of the fifteenth century in the blind bindings of England, France, and the Netherlands, seem never to have found much favour in Italy. As the great Oriental mart of Europe, Venice early received and imitated the patterns of the East, and the Venetian blind bindings consist chiefly of varieties of plain interlacements, probably of Saracenic origin. Another form of blind work, also of Oriental origin, exhibits arrangements of deeply punctured dots, and it is with the filling in of these dots or rings with gold (as in Nos. 1 and 2 of case E), that the modern method of ornamentation takes its rise. These modest bindings offer some excellent hints to decorative artists, but the Oriental style with which the name "Venetian" is especially connected is much more garish in appearance. In these bindings (we

quote Miss Prideaux's description) "the board was coated with a sort of paper composition, the centre and corners then cut or stamped out in panels, and the whole, both of the recessed tablets and the upper ground, covered with a thinly-pared leather. This was next coated with a coloured lacquer, and finally decorated and painted with arabesques in gold." Numerous books bound in this style are exhibited among the Oriental bindings in case C, though most of them are as late as the eighteenth century. The first and second exhibits, both in excellent taste, and both Turkish, are attributed to a century earlier; but no Oriental examples have been collected as ancient as the Venetian imitations in the next case. It must, we are afraid, be taken as an axiom that finely bound books are not meant to be read, else the unpleasantness of these painted and panelled bindings to the touch might be alleged against them. Their chief importance in the history of the art lies in the fact that it was probably the outlines of these sunk panels which suggested those patterns of curved and sinuous lines which are one of the characteristic features in early Venetian bindings. The execution of these designs is often imperfect, and the different parts of the pattern sometimes fail to correspond; but the very irregularity has its charm, and many prefer the freedom of these earlier essays to the more severe and geometrical patterns which have become famous in books bound for Grolier. In three of these, a Juvenal, Pliny, and Valerius Maximus (Nos. 13, 14, and 15 in case F), the two styles are united, and these little books are among the most desirable in the whole exhibition. Similar flowing curves appear in the best work executed for his friend Thomas Maioli, an Italian collector, of whom strangely little is known; but Grolier seems for the most part to have preferred stiff geometrical compositions of interlaced straight lines and semicircles, which in themselves have very little beauty. Both collectors set the stamp of their approbation on the painted mosaic bindings, in which "geometrical interlacings were filled in with a sort of coloured and varnished incrustation" (we again quote Miss Prideaux), "and then bordered in gold lines." Necessarily garish when fresh, from the crude colouring mostly employed, in course of time the incrustation cracks and peels off, and it is only occasionally, as in the fine copy of Apicius *De Re Culinaria* bound for Maioli (case F, 19), that the effect is really admirable. Here the colouring is mainly olive, strapped with black bands, and with only a slight admixture of blue, green, and gold. These painted bindings have an immense vogue among collectors, for whose delectation two rows of them have been arranged in case F, while in case I are many

examples of the successful imitations produced at Lyons. We should mention that altogether fifteen books bound for Grolier, and seven bound for Maioli, are here exhibited, though one or two of them are in very poor condition. The library inherited by Demetrio Canevari, physician to Pope Urban VIII., is also well represented. In several of the eight examples shown, notably in those lent by Mr. Toovey and the Greek Ambassador, the painted and gilt "cameo" medallion of the horses of the sun appears almost as fresh as new. Though greatly sought after on account of their rarity, the Canevari bindings are by no means miracles of good taste, and it is not in these, nor in the painted Groliers or Maiolis, but in the graceful patterns formed from the pure line of gold that the true excellence of Venetian binding is best manifested.

"During the reign of Henry II.," writes Miss Prideaux, "binding reached its highest perfection, and yet the books from the library of the King are the only fine ones that we know of." The Bibliothèque Nationale possesses some 800 of these volumes, nearly the whole of the King's library, and it is consequently only there that the perfection of French binding can be fully realized. The examples shown at the Club are rather disappointing. In much the best taste is the copy of *Le Livre des Statutes et Ordonnances de l'Ordre Saint Michel*, in brown morocco, with the arms and initials of the King, and emblems of bows and quivers. A copy of Alberti's *L'Architecture* (Paris, 1553), lent by Mr Alfred Huth, is a fine example of ornamentation in gold and colours, and is in wonderful (almost suspiciously wonderful) preservation. A Camerarius *De Prædestinatione* in white morocco, the sides blind tooled with the various emblems of Diane de Poitiers and the initial of Henri II., has an unexpectedly heavy and clumsy appearance. These, with a calf binding, stamped with a medallion of the King, are all the examples shown of the great age of French binding. The next period, on the other hand, that of Nicolas Eve, is splendidly represented. Two of the finest specimens of the work of this great artist are lent by Her Majesty the Queen; the first, a copy of Dampmartin, *De la Connoissance et Merveilles du Monde*, 1585 (case I., 7), is in brown morocco, the sides bearing the arms and crowned initial of Henri III., with rich tooling of marvellous brilliancy; the second, a copy (I. 13), of the *Schediasmata Poetica* of Melissus, printed the following year, and bound in white vellum, which greatly enhances the delicate effect of the tooling. Three bindings (I. 31, 33, 34) executed by Nicolas Eve for Jacques Auguste de Thou are but little inferior to these royal books, the first a Herodotus in blue morocco, the second a

Latin Psalter in red, and the third an *Odyssey* in olive. Taken together, these five splendid books illustrate very adequately the beauty of the foliated style introduced by Eve. In I. 36 and 37 we have two examples of the beautiful little bindings usually supposed to have been executed by his successor, Clovis Eve, for Marguerite de Valois. At I. 61 and 62 are two delightful little *Le Gascons*, and the next exhibit also is a fine specimen of the same style. The rest of the case is mostly taken up with books bearing the arms or badges of famous collectors, Cardinals Mazarin and Richelieu, J. B. Colbert, Madame de Pompadour, the Baron de Longepierre, Fabri de Peiresc, and most of the later Kings of France.

Between the delicate tooling of seventeenth-century French bindings and the rude work executed in England under Italian influence a hundred years earlier, the contrast is necessarily great. Three bindings are shown executed for Edward VI., and six of Queen Elizabeth's, of which two (L. 11 and 12), show her badge of the crowned falcon. The library of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, is represented by five examples, and six books are shown from the collection of the "*English Grolier*," Thomas Wotton, whose books often show as good taste as those of Grolier himself. The reigns of the first James and Charles were not productive of any very fine work; but with the Restoration, English binding entered on a new phase, the rich illustration of which, in case N, is one of the chief features of the exhibition. Partly by inlaying with leathers of various colours, partly by the use of a multiplicity of small tools, English binders under the later Stuarts produced a great quantity of work which, though it will hardly bear close examination, is very pleasing and effective. The tools themselves are rather poor, and the workmanship is often irregular, so that when compared, for instance, with the masterpieces of Nicolas Eve, they show but poorly. But though by no means great work, they are decidedly pretty, and the inlaid bindings (*e.g.*, the Bibles, Nos. 6 and 8 in case N), may be favourably contrasted with the Grolieresque painted bindings on the other side of the room, which are so much more highly esteemed. During the eighteenth century, English binding was most successful when least ambitious. Some solid work was done, but the clumsy sprays of foliage in elaborate bindings produce but a poor effect. Late Italian work, which is profusely illustrated in case P, invites a very similar judgment.

The first seven exhibits of case Q are examples of the work of Roger Payne, and in the case of two of them the compilers of the catalogue are able to quote the binder's interesting bills. "*Bound*

in the very best manner in the very best russia of the true native colour. Sewed with silk in the very best manner on bands. Strong and neat. The back lined with thin morocco to make it open very easy and strong. Finished in the most magnificent manner with broad borders of small tool-work insides and morocco joints. The outsides finished in the highest taste with ornamental corners of oak leaves and small tool." Such is Payne's description of his work on a copy of Lilly's *Christian Astrology*, and if the eulogy is a little high flown, Payne's name still deserves to be held in remembrance as that of one of the few English binders of any originality. The rest of the contents of the case are almost purely imitative, sometimes garish, as in the copy of Bacon's essays in a Grolieresque pattern of violent red and green by old John Tuckett ; sometimes examples of almost perfect execution, as in the seven books bound by F. Bedford. The last case in the exhibition is devoted to French bindings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and contains good examples of the work of the Padeloups, and the Deromes, of Bozérien, Trautz-Bauzonnet, Niedrée and Chambolle-Duru, which we have only space to mention.

The old stamped bindings (particularly the few twelfth-century English ones), the early Venetian books, the Maiolis and Canevaris, the examples of the work of Nicolas Eve, and the English bindings of the time of the later Stuarts, these, to sum up, seem to us the most noteworthy features of this interesting exhibition. But the profusion of work shown is so great, that every case offers much to admire and much to learn.



Isaac D'Israeli's House, Bloomsbury Square.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that much has been written about the birthplace and early residence of the late Earl of Beaconsfield, a good deal of misunderstanding appears to exist in the minds of those who have written upon the subject, and it seems desirable that at least the situation of the house of the Disraeli family in Bloomsbury Square should be definitely determined. At the present time there are several accounts which speak of the house No. 5 as being the Disraeli house. Thus, in Hutton's *Literary Landmarks of London*, Disraeli's house is said to be that which formerly bore the number 6A, or 6½—"now No. 5." Harrison's *Memorable London Houses* speaks of it as "No. 5, Bloomsbury Square, at the corner of Hart Street."

My own impression has always been that the Disraeli family resided in the house which is now No. 6—the next to the corner house. A careful perusal of the account in the *Literary Landmarks of London*, however, suggested the question as to whether that impression was correct, and in order to assure myself I have had some correspondence with Mr. J. R. Bourne, a gentleman who until recently was the Steward to the Bedford Estate, and therefore well able, from reference to documents in the Bedford Office, to settle the question once for all.

Mr. Bourne's statement entirely supports the impression I previously had received. He says, "Disraeli lived in Bloomsbury Square in the house No. 6, being the first house from the south-west corner." Mr. Bourne wrote a letter upon this subject to *The Times* of 25th April, 1881, from which it appears that "in the Bedford Estate rentals Mr. Isaac Disraeli's name first appears as tenant of the house No. 6, Bloomsbury Square, in the year 1818. His name continues in the list until Lady-day, 1829. The occupation included with the residence a coach-house and stable in the Bedford Head yard."

In a recent letter to the present writer Mr. Bourne writes: "Isaac D'Israeli did not appear in the list as tenant until a date later than

his son's birth ; but he may have been in occupation of the house as under-tenant before he became immediate tenant—it is a very common practice."

The opinion was expressed that the Disraelis lived in No. 6, by Hare in his *Walks in London*.

Bloomsbury Square is singularly rich in its associations with men who have attained fame and distinction in the paths of literature, science, and other honourable pursuits. It is, perhaps, especially interesting to librarians from the fact of its having housed two famous libraries. One, unfortunately no longer in existence, was collected by Lord Mansfield at his residence here, and was destroyed by the Gordon rioters in 1780. It contained many volumes which had been enriched by the MS. notes of Pope and Bolingbroke, and numerous letters from Lord Mansfield's family and friends. The other was collected by Sir Hans Sloane at his house in Bloomsbury Square, and later on, after having been removed to Chelsea, was brought back again to Bloomsbury, where it formed the nucleus of the British Museum Library. No. 31, Bloomsbury Square, was the residence of Sir Antonio, or, as he always preferred to be called, Anthony Panizzi. Here he came to live after his retirement from the post of Principal Librarian, and here he died, at the ripe age of 82, on the 8th of April, 1879.

GEORGE CLINCH.



Book-Speech and Folk-Speech.

I WANT to put in a word for the more common use in writing and speaking of that part of our English speech which is home-grown. If I call this part Saxon, I do not mean to take for granted any view of the rise and first beginnings of our tongue, which scholars might deem at least improved ; but merely to take the word as an easily understood name for that older, and mainly Teutonic, part of it, which has come down to us from our English forefathers. There *are* good words, which perhaps came over with the Conqueror—like *beef*, *mutton*, and so on ; which have taken so kindly to our English air and soil, that we have forgotten for the most part that they are outlandish. Old denizens like these are as good as Saxon for the end I aim at. What cannot claim any such citizenship are those Latin and Greek strangers, with their sweeping trains of *osities* and *ations*, "foot and a half words," like those Horace laughs at. These, I hold, are answerable for much of the weakness and pithlessness in many English styles ; and it is these I would call on to show cause why they shouldn't forthwith be banished to the museums and the dictionaries. First, then, I make bold to plead against them, that for most of the ends of everyday life they are needless. We have enough and to spare of true English to say all we want, without going a-borrowing. Leave out all that is not Saxon in our tongue, and we have still left us a speech, of itself enough for all the great needs of our outer and of our inner life ; a speech, too, that has in it a strength and a power of growth from its own inborn sources which, if it only got free play, would fit it for all the new uprising wants of our growing enlightenment. But though we are owners of this unfathomed mine of teeming ore, we are, it seems, not content, but must go abroad to rifle the stores of others. Whether the spoils are such as to truly better us is what I ask. Tarpeia smothered beneath the heaped-up gauds she had lusted after were, to my mind, no unfit image of our overburthened state in this matter.

We have only to keep our eyes open to see tokens in plenty of the wanton despite done to our home-born words and wealth of

speech. No matter how seemly or how happy may be the Saxon way of saying their say, people will go out of their path to say it, and say it badly, in second-hand Latin or Greek. Go into a church or a hospital, and it is ten to one but you see over the alms-box, "Voluntary contributions gratefully received." I often wonder whether a little Saxon begging mightn't be good by way of a change. Why shouldn't "Freewill gifts thankfully taken" serve the turn better than the other? Walk down the main streets in any of our towns, and mark the giant posters that fill the drapers' windows—"The complete assortment will be disposed of immediately at a ruinous sacrifice," say they. Perhaps the large words serve better to cloak the emptiness of the tradesman's promises. There's a downright ring about the Saxon way of putting it—"The whole stock will be sold off forthwith at a dead loss," from which a mere humbug would shrink. Isn't "Smoking is forbidden" better, because plainer and more easily understood of the people, than "Smoking is prohibited"? Is the Tory Parliamenteer shrewdly aware that he wouldn't get a hearing if he cried up "Things as they are," instead of his pet phrase, "Established institutions"? The daily papers have much to answer for on this head. They have a jargon of their own, which abounds in long, outlandish phrases, often a good deal less than half understood by the users. If a man die they say he has "deceased," or "demised," or is "defunct"; if a house catches fire and is burned down, it has been "attacked by the devouring element," or "involved in a conflagration," and has "succumbed to the all-prevailing flames"; a burial becomes "funeral obsequies"; a hearse and coaches a "cortège," and the parson is the "officiating clergyman." A wedding they speak of as a "Hymeneal celebration," and an "auspicious event." A new village pump is never set agoing, it is "inaugurated." There is never a merrymaking, only a "rustic festivity." If a man is drunk, they call him "inebriated." If he calls in a doctor, he "consults his medical adviser." If he seems in a bad way, his "condition is regarded as precarious." If he gets well, and they are glad of it, they "have pleasure in felicitating him on his restoration to convalescence." An earthquake is now a "seismic disturbance," and if a thing crops up again it is called a "recrudescence." Instead of the good old words "man" and "woman," we have "individuals" and "personages" and "young persons" and "females." "Trustworthy" is ousted by that uncouth "reliable." "Praiseworthy" and "blameworthy" are hardly ever heard of. I have seen the little word "when" broadened into six—"at this moment, horrible to relate." Shakespeare forestalls one

here, as always. Does not Touchstone have a fling at this very vice? "Therefore, you clown, abandon, which is in the vulgar *leave*, the society, which in the boorish is *company*, of this female, which in the common is *woman*." In good sooth, one is almost driven into thinking that there is something more at the bottom of this than the mere wish to seem learned, or to cover up the baldness of the matter by the gaudiness of the manner. Can it be that long words make long lines, and so more lines more pennies?

If the effect of all this fine writing passed away as quickly as the paper it stains, it might hardly be worth while to make a serious matter of it. But when we remember that in these days everyone reads his newspaper, and many read little else, we may well fear for the purity of the people's speech in time to come. When a tradesman or a working-man finds his party-sheet, which he is wont to look at as a mouthpiece of wisdom, making the freest use of new-fangled and pompous utterances, he is apt to mistake the ill-understood for the noble and grand—and he straightway sets down all that is plain and Saxon for vulgar and mean. Secondly, I believe that besides being needless, this wholesale coveting of our neighbour's goods, this borrowing of outlandish words, is fraught with real harm to the life and power of growth from within, which our tongue once showed so strongly. Alas that I have to say "once," for it is plain that our English no longer exercises in full the living gift of moulding at will new shapes of words out of old and well-known roots, though I am fain to hope the power is rather slumbering than dying. To come to examples, is it not special matter for sorrow that we have allowed many of the Saxon prefixes and particles to fall into disuse? They gave much strength and beauty, as well as suppleness, to the older speech, and we have gained nothing from the Romance which can claim to fill their place with fitness. "The writer who shall restore to their ancient use and meaning prefixes like 'for' and 'wan,' will do his native speech more good than if he naturalized a thousand Latinisms" (Marsh). How much finer and better are words like "fordo" than "ruin," "fordwined" than "emaciated," "forfoughten" than "exhausted with fighting," "forjudge" than "condemn unjustly," "forwatched" than "weary with watching," and so with "forwept," "forworn," "forchased," "forwandered." And was it not a losing bargain when we bartered "wanhope" for "despair," and "wantrust" for "suspiciousness"?

That this loss of power to make true English compounds has, in fact, arisen mainly from the readiness with which people rush to the foreign for new words on slight cause or no cause, will hardly be doubted. And I would put it that the habit of borrowing has so

worked in two ways. First *directly*—the swarm of strange words already brought over have so mongrelized our tongue, and its elements have thereby grown so diverse and at odds with each other, that, like beasts of alien stock, they refuse to pair. There has come to be but little smooth flowing of the words one into the other, such as we see in tongues like the German or the Greek, where all the roots have a kinship and family likeness, and run together with the still movement of mingling waters. And then, *indirectly*, the bad habit has brought to pass what all bad habits bring about, it has largely taken away the will and wish to do better. While we see and praise the better way, we drift listlessly into the worse, often for sheer laziness, and because it may take us some pains to shift our helm. That the loss is a real one we shall feel sure if we but call to mind how full of meaning and pith are the Saxon compounds we already have at our hands. Thunderstorm, thundercloud, kingdom, witchcraft, swordbearer, earthquake, handicraft, motherwit, leechcraft, full-blown, bystander, thoroughgoing, downright, well-wisher, farewell, long-looked-for, old-fashioned, livelihood, headlong, piecemeal, underling, darling, Godhead, and so on, the first words that come into one's head. No one will gainsay that words like these have a pith and a life about them that is lacking in the classical compounds; and the reason not unlikely is that the members of the words are meaningful when taken by themselves as well as in the compound. Such words as these are among the oldest in the language. Nowadays our words must, as it were, be wedded by special license, and, as sometimes happens even in spite of that fashionable form of tying the knot, a divorce is not unseldom asked for.

Lastly, that it may not be brought against me that trying to stem, even with so frail a broom as mine, the flood of classicisms is wantonly intermeddling with the freedom of Englishmen—or that it were needlessly hindering the people's growth in wit and wisdom to withstand their using what words they please—I would urge that those writers who are acknowledged by the ages to be the most worthy and the most likely to live on, have found in the pure Saxon enough for all their highest uses and widest-reaching aims. The orator and the poet who appeal straight to our feelings, or seek to win by rousing us, have always, willingly or not, made use of the English rather than the classical style.

And this is not only, as I believe, because the common people cannot so well understand the latter style, but rather because in the home-born words they find a power which speaks to the mind and heart clearly and unmistakably. The Saxon words are living with

the clinging memories of our earliest youth. They have become so blended with the things they name, that we never hear the one with the ear without with the mind's eye seeing the other. As Tennyson says, "For though my lips may breathe 'adieu,' I cannot think the *thing* 'farewell.'" And thus it comes that of two words of like meaning—the one Romance, the other Saxon, and both equally well understood—the one shall bring up a cold "conception," as of the head, the other a glowing and living "perception," as of the heart. "The difference is like that between the winter and the summer sun. The light of the former may be as clear and dazzling as that of the latter, but the kindly warmth is gone." Shakespeare knew this. Those who have counted say that 90 per cent. of his words are Saxon; and what part of life or of nature has he not touched?

I open my book at random, and these places meet my eye. Richard in prison chafes in Saxon at some well-meant kindness:

This music mads me, let it sound no more—
For tho' it have help madmen to their wits,
In me it seems it will make wise men mad.
Yet blessing on his heart that gives it me,
For 'tis a sign of love—and love to Richard
Is a strange brooch in this all-hating world.

Lady Macbeth thrills us to the marrow in Saxon:

I have given suck, and know
How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me.
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have plucked the nipple from his boneless gums
And dashed his brains out, had I so sworn as you
Have done in this!

Hamlet's last words are Saxon. Hitherto, when he feigns madness, it is to be remarked that we shall know when the fit is on by his stilted and classical speeches. Now, there is no time to pick and choose fine words. With his last breath he cries to Horatio:

As thou'rt a man, give me the cup; let go;
By heaven, I'll hav't;
O good Horatio, what a wounded name,
Things standing thus unknown, shall live behind me.
If thou didst ever hold me in thy heart
Absent thee from felicity awhile,
[A Latin line, and a jarring.]
And in this harsh world draw thy breath in pain
To tell my story.

Let us change the time, and note how Shylock, the man who is always in earnest, speaks ever Saxon:

(Of Lancelot)—

The patch is kind enough, but a huge feeder,
Snail-slow in profit, and he sleeps by day
More than the wild-cat; drones hive not with me,
Therefore I part with him, and part with him
To one that I would have him help to waste
His borrowed purse.

Not to weary with quotations, which have been taken at the merest haphazard, let us call to mind the language of the New Testament, where, though perhaps needless classical words can be pointed out, yet 95 per cent. is Anglo-Saxon. In John Bunyan and, hardly at first sight to be looked for, in John Milton, the average is said to be 85 per cent., in spite of the many technical religious words of the former, and of the wonderful scholarship and varied learning displayed by the latter. These should show that the inner life can well find utterance in the older speech. In satire, take *Gulliver*, in fiction, *Tom Jones* and the *Vicar of Wakefield*; in taste, Addison, many of whose papers are nearly as Saxon as *Piers Plowman*. To come down to later days, and without going beyond the field of my own chance reading of the past month, I find that Ruskin can teach us drawing, and not without store of flowers and gems by the way, in almost unmixed Saxon. Nay, he clean outdoes Cobbett himself, whom most people would, perhaps, without making search, have thought to be as idiomatic as a writer can be. And as a last example, in poetry, I cannot praise Tennyson enough, for his faithful clinging to the good old speech.

Not in his *Idylls* alone, where an air of quaintness might seem to be sought for, but in his songs also, and in the most marked and notable way in the *In Memoriam*.

Let me cull the half-dozen leading verses :

1st. His opening prayer—

We have but faith ; we cannot know—
For knowledge is of things we see,
And yet we trust it comes from Thee,
A beam in darkness ; let it grow.

2nd. His loss—

He is not here ; but far away
The noise of life begins again ;
And ghastly through the drizzling rain
On the bald street breaks the blank day.

3rd. His plan—

In words like weeds I'll wrap me o'er
Like coarsest clothes against the cold ;
But that large grief which these enfold
Is given in outline and no more.

4th. His sorrow—

I hold it true whate'er befall,
I feel it when I sorrow most,
'Tis better to have loved and lost,
Than never to have loved at all.

5th. His resolve—

I will not shut me from my kind,
And lest I stiffen into stone,
I will not eat my heart alone,
Nor feed with sighs a passing wind.

6th. The issue—

Regret is dead : but love is more
Than in the summers that are flown,
For I myself with these have grown
To something greater than before.

You can read strain after strain of this sweet, sad music, and never meet a word that has not the true English ring ; and if you have but gotten you the taste for the right Saxon, you will find few pleasures so sweet and unsullied as drinking it here in its clearness and heart-freshening purity.



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THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Record of Bibliography.

Book Prices Current: A Record of the Prices at which Books have been sold at Auction from December, 1889, to November, 1890. Vol. IV. London: Elliot Stock, 1891. 8vo, pp. vii. 556. Price £1 7s 6d.

Book-Prices Current has now reached its fourth year of publication, and the first feeling which the appearance of a new volume inspires is one of unmitigated thankfulness. It is not too much to say that to everyone who has anything to do with the purchase of old books this record of prices is indispensable. This much cheerfully owned, we remember that few things are so good that they might not be better, and proceed to grumble. As everyone knows, the idea of the publication is to record the prices of books which have reached twenty shillings and upwards in all the London book-sales of the year. Each sale preserves its own identity, and sale succeeds sale in chronological order. The order of the individual entries is alphabetical, and a very fair index at the end of the book furnishes a clue by which the reader may hunt up the works of any given author as they appear in the different sales. The present plan has, of course, its advantages. It is pleasant to have all the valuable lots in an interesting sale preserved in their original order. The number of lots, too, and the total amount realized are given at the head of each sale; and it is amusing to compare the average price per lot, which varied last year from under ten shillings apiece in some of the smaller sales to upwards of five pounds in the case of Mr. Gaisford's collection. All this is pleasant and amusing, but it is hardly a sufficient advantage to compensate for the labour involved in first searching out entries in the index, and then tracking them down in the body of the work. Priced catalogues can usually be obtained after any important sale, so that the respect shown to the individuality of the different collections is of the less importance. On the other hand, (in contrast to the waste of time involved at present in the double reference by means of an index,) if the entries were arranged alphabetically throughout the whole work, the volumes for any number of years could be opened at once at any given author, and a complete conspectus of the prices fetched by his works obtained at a single glance. The saving of space in headings and titles would be immense, and the labour of compilation could hardly be greater. The irritating cross-division by sizes still observed in many auctions already necessitates a rearrangement of the entries, in order to bring them into one alphabet for each sale; and the further rearrangement involved in extending this single alphabet to the whole work could hardly be so laborious a piece of work as the making of the present index, which, on the plan proposed, could be altogether abolished. Of the index itself we desire to speak with respect, but every fresh piece of work is a fresh opportunity for error, and the mistakes we have noticed in using the book afford a fresh argument for the single alphabet, which would render an index superfluous. Thus Wynkyn de Worde's 1527 edition of Caxton's translation of the *Golden Legend* is indexed under Caxton, while Notary's edition of 1503 is indexed, with others, under the original author, Jacobus de Voragine. Five editions of the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* are indexed under Poliphilus, and three under Columna. The index entries under "Arthur (King)" and "Arthur

of Little Britain" are confused. A pang is sent to the heart of Ingoldsby collectors by the invention of an 1839-41 edition of the famous *Legends*, which seems to have got into the index by jumbling together an *Arabian Nights* published in these years and *Some Account of my Cousin Nicholas*, by Thomas Ingoldsby, published in 1841. The *Legends* were first published, the first series in 1840, the second in 1842. Coleridge's "Watchman" is indexed with the reference-number 5,877, which belongs to a copy of the 1687 edition of Chaucer. The name of Mr. Seymour Haden, the etcher, is spelt and arranged as Hayden. Slips like these are almost inevitable in index-work, and cannot be called discreditable to the compiler; but they point the moral that the abolition of the system of double reference would bring an increase of accuracy, as well as of ease, in use. A more important defect is that, except in very important headings, no distinction is made in the index between different editions. Thus the eight references for Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy* comprise editions of dates varying from 1621 to 1886, and in order to find that one copy of the first edition sold last year for £30, and another for £23 10s., all eight references have to be made. The same is the case with editions of Herrick's *Hesperides*. As we have said before, even in its present form Mr. Stock's publication is indispensable to everyone concerned in the purchase of old books; but we think that the rearrangement which we have suggested would greatly increase its usefulness, and, by the saving of paper and print, enable the book to be produced more cheaply, or else open the way for the addition of an index of the printers of incunabula and another of binders, both of which would be very welcome.

A Selection of Pseudonyms; or, Fictitious Names used by well-known Authors, with the Real Names given. Also a number of Anonymous Works with the Authors given. Selected and arranged by A. Cotgreave. *John Bale and Sons, London, 1891.* 8vo., pp. 24.

Mr. Cotgreave has invented some very useful library furniture, notably his "indicator" and "periodical rack," the name of which last, we may add, does not conceal an instrument for intermittent torture, but only a stand for keeping newspapers and periodicals in order. His present effort to help his fellow-librarians can hardly be reckoned successful. A list of pseudonyms and of anonymous works crowded into twenty pages must necessarily be eclectic, and an eclectic list is always disappointing. In this case it is also untrustworthy. Mr. Grant Allen would be very surprised to be told that his "proper or present names" were J. A. Wilson (the pseudonym under which he first appeared as a novelist). Mr. Comyns Carr, again, has been a well-known figure in London for many years, and yet his real name, it would seem, is Josh. Williams! Once more, Mr. Arthur Locker, to whom the *Graphic* owes so much of its success, is a brother of Frederick Locker, the author of *London Lyrics*, and yet his "proper" name, we are told, is J. H. Forbes. Mr. Cotgreave may not have blundered like this often, but if he can thus reverse the real and the assumed names of three men of letters of long standing and considerable reputation, we must hesitate before accepting his statements in the case of the less-known writers, who fill the greater part of his list. We may note, too, that the first initial of Mr. Anstey Guthrie, the author of *Vice Versa*, is not F., but T. (for Thomas). The signature F. Anstey, to an article which made some success in a Cambridge periodical, was due to a printer's error, by which the author has since chosen to abide. Ouida's real name, again, should, we believe, be spelt La Ramée, not Ramé.

Library Catalogues.

Norwich Free Library. Supplementary Catalogue. . . . Lending Department, Jan. 1888 to Mar.[1891. Norwich, 1891. Crown 8vo., pp. viii., 88.

One line entry, single column to page, dictionary form. A very handy, compact, and intelligible catalogue. The appendix is a commendable feature, giving special class lists of music, shorthand, the drama, and works in foreign languages. Serials are also given in the appendix, somewhat after the form of the English catalogue appendix.

Croydon Free Public Libraries. Catalogue of Books in the Thornton Heath Library. Croydon, 1891. Large 8vo., pp. 99.

Dictionary form, double columns. Mr. R. C. Chapman, the librarian, and compiler of this catalogue, has produced a very satisfactory guide to the contents of the Thornton Heath Library. Pseudonyms appear to have been well elucidated, though we scarcely think the general public will often look under Booth (Eliza M. J. G. von) for the novels of Rita. Under the word "Reference" in the alphabet is introduced a list of works to be consulted only within the library.

Rotherham Free Public Library. Subsidiary List of Books Added March 28th, 1821. Rotherham, 1891. Large 8vo., pp. 26.

There is scarcely any excuse for such cataloguing as is exhibited in this compilation. It is disfigured by blemishes that ought not to be found in catalogues nowadays. It claims to be alphabetical, and ignores the elementary rules of alphabetizing; and hence under A we have thirty-three works, ranging from "A Bachelor's Blunder" to "A York and Lancaster Rose." It must be very near a record to find on one page the following printer's errors: "Manual of Basteriology," "Marjion Crawford," "Bl. Farjeon," besides others. The extra column on each page given up to numbers of books by same author may be a novelty, but not a desirable one.

Camberwell Public Libraries. Catalogue of the Books in the Dulwich Lending Library. London, 1891. 8vo., pp. 248.

Compiled by Mr. E. Foskett, the Librarian. Dictionary form, single line entry across page. Subjects displayed in heavier faced type, altogether a pleasing catalogue. We notice very few slips from the rules under which the compiler has worked, though "Du Chailu (Paul)" compared with "Moncel (Comte du)" suggest an oversight in the original entry of the latter name. It is most distinctly a good catalogue, clear, accurate, free from misprints, and not overlaid with capitals.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Free Library. Index-Catalogue of the Books in the Lending and Reference Departments. Newcastle-under-Lyme, 1881. Small 8vo., pp. 122.

This might be called a catalogue of commas. They are used in twos in place of dash, hyphen, or simple indent; we have authors' names in the possessive case, and such entries as "Hermit's, Lives of the." It bears evidence throughout of lack of acquaintance with any rules. It is compiled by Miss A. Peacock, the Librarian, and though we are loath to appear severe as to the work of a lady, it would be mere weakness to prophesy smooth things when plain speaking is called for. It is not a

proof of ability to find such entries as "Arminius Vambrey" under A, "Queen Victoria" under Q, and among others "Erckmann, Chatrian"; "Butler, Wm. F. Sir"; "Raleigh, Walter Sir"; "Quincey De"; "Punch, Bound." After these one must not be surprised to find "Fullom's History of Woman," under "Fullom" and "History," and all reference omitted under the heading "Woman."

Manchester Public Free Libraries. Occasional Lists, No. 3—The Shorthand Collection in the Free Reference Library. Manchester, April, 1891. Large 8vo., pp. 44.

In continuation of the two previous capital lists, this is a specially important list of the works on shorthand, spelling reform, and cryptography, collected by the late J. Eglington Bailey, and since presented to the Manchester Free Library by Mr. Henry Boddington. In cataloguing this collection, Mr. Sutton has wisely added those other works contained in the library, but not in the Bailey collection, and so rendered the list a valuable contribution to the bibliography of the subject. It is just the scientific and accurate list that we may always expect from such a source.

Nottingham Free Public Reference Library. Class List, No. 16—History. Nottingham, June, 1891. Large 8vo., pp. 32.

This is compiled by Mr. J. P. Briscoe, with the aid of his assistant, Mr. S. J. Kirk, and is another addition to those excellent subject class-lists that Mr. Briscoe has shown so well how to do at Nottingham. Will the compilers, however, allow us to suggest that it would be a distinct advantage if the comma were used more frequently, and the full point less so, in punctuating? The entry "Woodward" on p. 29 must surely be confusing to readers as it stands.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be promptly forwarded.

ABERDEEN.—The collection of books and manuscripts on music and musicians formed by Mr. James Walker has been presented by that gentleman to the Aberdeen Public Library. It includes 343 different works and 418 volumes or pieces, and embraces many rare books relating to Scottish music.

AYR.—The subscribers to the Ayr Public (Proprietary) Library have resolved to hand over the property of that institution, including 10,000 volumes, to the authorities of the town for the purposes of the free library.

BURNLEY.—The meeting of the members of the Burnley Mechanics' Institution was held on June 24, to consider a suggestion of the Corporation that that body should take over the Institution library, for the purpose

of forming a free library, and also to have the free use of the reading-room. Mr. Joshua Rawlinson, J.P., moved a resolution in favour of the institution retaining its library. After some discussion, an amendment was moved by Mr. Holgate, as follows: "That, while we cannot spare room for the purpose of a free library and reading-room, we are willing to part with one library, except such portion as may be required for the nucleus of a students' library." On a show of hands, Mr. Rawlinson's motion was carried by 24 votes to 21.

CANTERBURY.—In the first volume of the *Library* (pp. 176 and 208) we recorded the offer and subsequent withdrawal of the offer of Dr. Beane, a member of the Victorian Legislature, to found a working men's institute and free library at Canterbury, his native city. We see that the Doctor has recently died, and that he has left £10,000 to the Mayor of Canterbury, to be expended in the foundation of a "Working Men's Library."

CROYDON.—A branch free library has just been opened at Thornton Heath.

LEEK: STAFFORDSHIRE.—Mr. Kineton Parkes has been appointed librarian and curator of the Nicholson Institute. Mr. Parkes is well known in literature and as art editor of *Igdrasil*.

LONDON: HAMMERSMITH.—The Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who are lords of the manor of Fulham and the copyholders of the said manor, have recently given a valuable plot of freehold land to the Public Library Commissioners for the purpose of erecting a branch library for the northern part of the parish. The plot is situated in Uxbridge Road, near the Shepherd's Bush Station, Metropolitan Railway, has a frontage of 112 feet to that road, a depth of 120 feet, and is admirably suited for the purpose. The public library in Ravenscourt Park, which is at present the only one in Hammersmith, was opened by Sir John Lubbock in March, 1890; it has been found quite inadequate to meet the wants of so large a parish, and the Commissioners are fortunate in securing so munificent a gift. The library rate is at present limited to one halfpenny, but it is the intention of the Commissioners to ask the ratepayers to vote for the penny rate; they have also appealed for donations towards the building fund.

LONDON: ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—Mr. Frank Pacy, librarian of the Richmond Free Library, has been appointed librarian and clerk to the Public Library Commissioners of St. George's, Hanover Square.

MANCHESTER.—Arrangements are in progress for the transference of the Rusholme Public Library to the Manchester Corporation, for the purposes of a branch free library for that district of the city.

NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—A summer meeting of this body was held at Boston, Lincolnshire, on Thursday, July 7th, at the invitation of the Rev. W. E. Attack. The libraries of the Working Men's College and of the Spain Lane Chapel Library Society, were visited, as well as the principal public buildings, the park, and the dock. The first-mentioned library, with its reading-room, is located in a drink shop. After tea, which was served in the Spain Lane Library, a meeting was held, at which Mr. Briscoe (President), of Nottingham, occupied the chair. In the course of his address he spoke of his recent visit to the public library at Bergen, Norway. Mr. Attack followed with the reading of a paper on the "Pleasures and Difficulties connected with a Small Library." An interesting and practical discussion ensued, in which Messrs. Radford, Herne, and Briscoe took part. *The Boston Independent* of July 18th devoted two columns to a report of this pleasant meeting of the "N.M.L.A."

OXFORD.—In the Report of the Property and Estates Committee on the city buildings, recently submitted to the Oxford City Council, is the following reference to the free library :—“It is felt that in particular the City Library and Public Reading-room, although it had done good service in the past, is not only inadequate for the present requirements and convenience of this large and increasing community at a time when education has become universal, but it is even unhealthy, mean in its arrangements, and a disgrace to an enlightened and progressive city. This is a part of the subject in which all classes, both sexes, and nearly all ages are interested.” They recommend that the following space should be devoted to the “public library (to include two rooms and librarian’s office)” : 2,500 square feet on ground floor, and 2,500 square feet on first floor.

SALFORD.—On July 15 the Albert Park Free Lending Library, Broughton, was opened to borrowers. This will make five free libraries now in the borough—viz., Peel Park, Pendleton, Regent Road, and Greengate. The Albert Park building, formerly a Conservative Club, adjoins the Albert Park, and comprises, on the ground floor, a large reading-room, with windows overlooking the park ; a smaller room for magazines, weekly illustrated papers, etc. ; lending library, with bookshelves for 12,000 volumes ; librarian’s office and apartments ; and large rooms on the upper floor, which can be utilized for meetings, etc. An entrance from the park has been made to the front of the library. The reading-rooms were opened to the public on December 1, 1890, and the large attendance of readers daily shows that the public highly appreciate the action of the committee. Since the reading-rooms were opened they have been visited by 40,878 readers, the highest number for one day being 351. The tables and stands are supplied with the principal London and provincial papers and periodicals, comprising thirteen daily papers, twenty-seven weekly papers, twenty-five monthly magazines and periodicals. For the lending library about 3,000 volumes of new books in the various classes of literature have been purchased, and more will be added from time to time. The Corporation of Salford was one of the first in the country to establish free libraries, and with five libraries for a population of 200,000 it stands well to the front in encouraging a taste for literature.

The polling of the inhabitants of Bethnal Green on the question of the adoption of the Free Libraries Act has resulted in its rejection by 3,098 votes to 2,996.

Practical Librarianship.

A NEW IDEA FOR LOCAL COLLECTIONS.

In most public libraries an attempt is made to form a collection of local literature, containing not only those books published in the town, but all such books and pamphlets as are directly or indirectly connected with the town or county ; and it is not difficult to prophesy that these local collections will be more valued by the future historian than more pretentious *mémoires pour servir*. But there is much of local interest that never reaches the dignity of published book or pamphlet, and even escapes the vigilance of the local newspaper. The deeds, and even the misdeeds, of townsmen in distant parts of the world make always attractive “copy” for the local newspapers ; but even the vigilance of the sub-editor’s office shears is not equal to collecting everything that may lurk in exchanges, and so, much that would serve for local history is lost.

It has occurred to us that librarians might, in their spare time—and

everyone knows that one of the chief difficulties of a public librarian is to find occupation for his ample leisure—make scrap-books of newspaper cuttings of interest to the inhabitants of his town and district. Such a proposal a few years ago would have involved much time and considerable expense, but, thanks to the operations of the Press Cutting Agencies, the expense of such a work would be comparatively trifling and the labour very slight; indeed, it could be very well performed by the boys in charge of the reference-desk, with the occasional supervision of the chief. A small annual subscription to Messrs. Romeike and Curtice, the pioneers of these agencies, and still *facile princeps*, would secure for every library a weekly supply of cuttings of local interest, gathered from the world's newspapers. We hope some of our more enterprising brethren will try the experiment, and we feel quite sure that its success will cause it to be widely adopted.

THE BONNER INDICATOR.

At Ealing the "Bonner Indicator" has been erected, and is, we are informed, giving great satisfaction. Instead of the familiar date-slide this indicator has a pentagonal case, each side being differently coloured, with the number of the book printed in white. "Red" to the borrower shows that the book is "In," and all other colours that the book is "Out." To the librarian "Blue" is "In"; and all books issued the first week are indicated by turning the case to the first colour, and during the next week to the second colour, the others being used in their proper order. These colours are indicated in the *simplest possible manner*—by merely turning the case round to the desired colour. The titles are lettered side by side with the numbers. The date of issue is *stamped*, instead of *written* in a register, which is pasted inside the cover of each book; the other entries are made in a day-book. Borrowers are thus supplied with a record of the date of issue; and that this was necessary is evinced by the fact that since the publication of this system several librarians have adopted the idea. The pentagonal indicator cases are hollow, to hold the borrowers' tickets.

An important addition to the "Bonner Indicator" is the "Unbound Magazine Section." By roughly cataloguing the magazines as they come from the reading-rooms, giving them letters not used in the book classification, the issue of these parts is brought into *strict conformity with the circulation of books*. At Ealing "G" and "H" are used alternately (the previous two months' parts only being lent out), the *numbers* being the *same each month*. Thus in July the May parts are, Argosy, G 2; Atlantic, G 3; Cassell's, G 4, etc.; and the June parts, Argosy, H 2; Atlantic, H 3, etc.

OUR SUPPLEMENT.

We issue with this number as a supplement the prospectus of the classes held in connection with the Watford Free Library. It is certainly an excellent one, and would do credit to an educational institution whose sole object it was to maintain such classes instead of, as in this case, being a mere adjunct to the work of the library.

Abstracts of Public Library Reports.

FOR STATISTICS SEE TABLE ON PAGE 312.

BARKING : Librarian, GEORGE JACKSON.—The committee regret that they have lost the valuable services of the Rev. Vincent Smith. New catalogue issued. Complaint is made of the "slamming of the door" of the newsroom! Surely that could easily be prevented.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS : Librarian, THOMAS ALDRED.—The committee direct attention to the issue of works of fiction remaining low. 292 volumes withdrawn, and replaced by new copies. It is necessary for the first time to call attention to want of care shown by some of the readers in the treatment of books. New catalogue being prepared. For third year in succession no book missing at stock-taking. No financial statement is given.

BOOTLE : Librarian, JOHN J. OGLE.—"The committee assure the Council and the public that a vigilant watch is kept over the choice works of fiction admitted to a place in the library." On December 4th a man detected walking away with a copy of the *Alliance News*, taken from the newspaper rack, in his pocket. When charged with the theft before the magistrates, it was stated that he had suffered an injury to his head, and that he was not quite accountable for his actions. He was bound over to appear again for judgment any time within the ensuing three months. The facilities for quiet study in the students' room are greatly appreciated. About a hundred copies of a little book of reading lists on special subjects have been sold. A library of local literature is commenced. Prompt means are taken to prevent the return to the library of any book sent out to any house reported to have infectious disease. Such books are burned and replaced by new copies.

BRENTFORD : Librarian, FRED. A. TURNER.—A catalogue issued; various improvements have been made in the library. Librarian reports success of "the original 'Elliot' Indicator." A local library is being established in the reference department.

CLITHEROE : Librarian, J. ROBINSON.—Library open 96 times, with an average issue of 235 *per night*! As space is limited, it is proposed to withdraw a number of old magazines and other books to make room for more modern works. Only a "summary of expenditure for the financial year" is given—total, £118, of which "salaries of librarian and assistant" take £35!

CROYDON : Librarian, ROBT. C. CHAPMAN.—Branch library at South Norwood opened on November 19th, 1890, with 4,713 vols. The Council have rented the first-floor of the Public Hall, South Norwood, for the purpose of this branch library, at £100 per annum. For a similar sum the Council has entered into an agreement to rent the first-floor of a building being erected for the purpose at the corner of High Street, Thornton Heath. It is hoped that the building will be ready in June. This will afford accommodation about 40 ft. square for a library and reading-room. The Croydon School Board have allowed evening reading-rooms and lending libraries, to be opened from 6.30 to 9.30 p.m., in three of their schools; another evening reading-room and library has been opened in the Working Men's Club, Shirley. A local collection commenced.

DUNDEE : Librarian, JOHN MACLAUCHLAN.—Contains view, with plans of ground and first-floor, of the Albert Institute and Victoria Art Galleries. The reports for 1889 and 1890 are included. Many alterations and improvements have been made since the Albert Institute has been finished. A room, capable of holding 40,000 or 50,000 vols., added to lending library; the Indicator extended. Two rooms, much needed, added to the reference library. The electric light has been installed throughout the building, and is of especial service in the reference, and more particularly in the lending libraries, where artificial light was often required in the day-time. Mr. W. O. Dalglish gave £1,000 to defray the cost of its installation in the libraries. Increased activity in all departments.

EALING : Librarian, THOS. BONNER.—Expenditure for printing catalogue has been met by the proceeds from sales and an advertisement on the cover. Owing to the heavy expenditure and small attendance, Mr. Herbert Ward's lecture on the "Congo Cannibals" only realized £2 10s. A new feature has been the subscription to Mudie's for six vols. at a time; these are used in the reference library. Two of the members of the committee first appointed have resigned—Mr. J. K. Wright and Rev. J. Chapman. A painting of the interior of the parish church, by W. A. E. Clabburn, has been bought by subscription and placed in the front reading-room. An Ordnance Survey map (6 inches to a mile), including a radius of about four miles round Ealing, has been purchased.

EXETER : Librarian, T. LLOYD-JONES.—The late Mr. Kent Kingdom bequeathed to trustees for the benefit of the Albert Memorial Museum Committee a sum of £6,000, for the purpose of completing the building. He further bequeathed all his art and literary collections and other objects to the institution, subject to a life-interest. The committee hope to light the reading-room and other parts by electricity. The reading-room continues to be a source of attraction to citizens and visitors. In addition to what is called the "Monthly Quota" (£648), the Town Council have further expended: Interest on loan, £57; instalment of Sinking Fund, £38; fire insurance, £15; carried to Suspense Account for repairs, £20—making a total of £778.

HALIFAX : Librarian, J. WHITELEY.—The Central Library and News-room removed to the new premises, and the library reopened in September last. A gallery of Halifax worthies is commenced. It is proposed to exhibit a connected historical series, showing the development and progress of illustrative art from the earliest to the present time.

KIDDERMINSTER : Librarian, ALFRED PENNY.—The committee have "seriously taken in hand the question of providing, by the erection of new buildings, the accommodation so sorely needed." The decrease accounted for to some extent by the withdrawal of a large number of popular books that have become worn out and have not been replaced.

NORTHWICH : Librarian, MISS C. CHAMBERS.—One hundred and ninety vols. transferred from the reference to the lending department. The lending department catalogue has been revised, and the revision of the reference department catalogue will be at once commenced.

NORWICH : Librarian, G. EASTER.—The committee regret extremely the death of the late Alderman James Freeman, who for several years was chairman. He bequeathed £20 to the library; with a portion of it a large-paper copy of the "Irving Shakespeare" has been bought, and the

remaining sum has been devoted to form a nucleus for a Shakespearian department. Sunday opening of reading-rooms much appreciated; about 15,000 visits during the year. A room for reference department much needed. This department, now containing about 8,000 vols. and over 3,000 pamphlets, is as yet uncatalogued.

PORTSMOUTH: Librarian, TWEED D. A. JEWERS.—New library opened on November 5th by the Mayor, Sir William D. King. A supplement and lending list has been printed. 2,142 books rebound, 1,843 books repaired. 30,802 is the increase in the lending issue. Daily attendance estimated at 4,000.

PRESTON: Librarian, W. S. BRAMWELL.—With the report is an interesting letter from Mr. James Hibbert on "The Legal Powers of Free Library Committees," with the case for counsel's opinion and the opinion of Mr. T. Humber. The question was mooted whether the administration of so comprehensive an institution as the Harris Free Public Library and Museum will be sufficiently adequate without the inclusion, as provided by the Public Libraries Acts, of members outside the Council. Out of forty-two of the principal towns where the Acts are in force, thirty-six appoint persons outside the Council upon the Public Library Committee. But the committee was appointed last November, "subject to the proviso is of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882."

RICHMOND, SURREY: Librarian, FRANK PACY.—During the past year a new Library Authority has been established in Richmond. On the 10th November last the Vestry ceased its connection with the Library, and the Corporation of Richmond took its place. This change caused some alterations in the constitution of the committee. The Vestry confined the members of the committee to its own body, but the Council appointed four members (a third of the whole), who were not members of the Council. The result is that out of the existing committee four are entirely new members. The committee desire to record an expression of gratitude to the old Library Authority for its unflinching confidence, to thank their former colleagues who have retired from the committee for their helpful services, and to express an earnest hope that the new authority will approve the work carried on in their name. The members of the L.A.U.K. held their March meeting here, when the librarian read a paper on "The Library and Literary Associations of Richmond."

SHEFFIELD: Librarian, THOMAS HURST.—Not a single ratepayer opposed the successful application to Parliament for power to levy a sum not exceeding 2d. in the £ for the purposes of the Free Libraries and Museums. New Catalogue of Reference Library issued. Two members of committee have died. The Earl of Carlisle declared the Ruskin Museum open in its new home at Meersbrook. No financial statement is furnished.

STAFFORD: Librarian, THOMAS JACKSON.—The balance deficit of £71 in 1890 is now reduced to £1. A new catalogue is being compiled.

TWICKENHAM: Librarian, EDWIN MAYNARD.—A bookcase has been specially provided for the Popean Collection. The balance of £9 8s. in hand on 25th March was immediately appropriated to the purchase of new books. Mr. Arthur Cogswell, senior assistant, has obtained an appointment in the Tate Free Library, Streatham.

WALSALL: Librarian, ALFRED MORGAN.—No breath of opposition has been raised to the new Local Act authorizing the increase of the Free

Library rate from 1d. to 2d. in the \mathcal{L} . Three branch reading-rooms established in Board Schools, open from 6 to 9.30 p.m. each week evening. The central buildings to be enlarged and rearranged. Reading-room at Bloxwich improved. Sunday opening very popular, the attendances at Walsall and Bloxwich averaging about 400 per Sunday. No balance-sheet is furnished.

REPORTS OF LIBRARIES NOT UNDER THE ACTS.

BURNLEY.—Fifty-seventh Annual Report of the Burnley Mechanics Institute . . . (1890), pp. 38. Mr. T. Hartley, Librarian. In October the library completely overhauled and a new catalogue printed. Total number of volumes is 14,966. Total issues, 34,808 volumes, of which fiction forms 72 per cent.

DEPTFORD.—Library and Club, Deptford (Messrs. Frederick Braby and Co., Limited). Twenty-first Annual Report, 1890-91, pp. 24. Mr. Geo. R. Humphery, Librarian and Hon. Secretary. Library now contains 3,433 volumes. 2,182 volumes have been lent home to read. Supplementary catalogue carefully revised by Mr. Joseph Gilburt. The reading meeting of the L.A.U.K. highly eulogized.

HULL.—The James Reckitt Public Library for Eastern Hull. First Annual Report from the opening, December 10th, 1889, to December 31st, 1890, pp. 12. Mr. Richard Hargreaves, Librarian. The library was opened on December 10th, 1889, by the Marquis of Ripon. Mr. Francis Reckitt having presented \mathcal{L} 500 for the purpose of providing a reference library, the Books Committee purchased 911 volumes of the best standard works. The reference department was opened on November 3rd, 1890, by F. B. Grotrian, Esq. 263 volumes (newly half-bound in morocco), costing \mathcal{L} 54 19s. 5d., have been added to the juvenile section. 764 books have been presented during the year. 3,856 borrowers' tickets have been issued. Present stock consists of 9,708 volumes, of which 1,286 are in the reference department. The issues amount to 101,837, of which fiction forms 65 per cent. Expenditure, \mathcal{L} 564, which would give a margin of \mathcal{L} 166 if the penny rate had been adopted.

LONDON.—Forty-first Annual Report of the Bank of England Library and Institution, 1891, pp. 17. Mr. James T. Child, *Honorary* Librarian. Mr. J. A. Mullens sends \mathcal{L} 100 as a parting gift on retiring from business. It is hoped by the committee that the MS. of the catalogue is now in the printer's hands. The process of cataloguing has been taken advantage of for the purpose of auditing the books. No work in German in the library. Of the \mathcal{L} 56 spent on new books, the sum of \mathcal{L} 8 10s. only was devoted to fiction. The *Speaker* and *Zoologist*, being absolutely unused, have been discontinued. On the 1st of March the members numbered 519. Total receipts, \mathcal{L} 415.

Library Association Record.

NOTICE.

Members who have omitted to pay their subscriptions are particularly requested to forward without delay the amount due to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. R. TEDDER, Athenæum, Pall Mall, S.W.

Enquirer suggests as a subject to be discussed at the next annual meeting: "How to tell what books are overdue."

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORTS.

NOTE: Under "Year ending," the first figure refers to the month, the second to the year: e.g., "3-90" = March, 1890. When no figure appears under a heading it means that the required information cannot be obtained from the report.

Name.	No. of Rept.	Year Ending.	Number of Volumes in Stock.			Volumes Issued.			Fiction Issued.		No. of Borrowers.	Product of Rate.	Total Income.
			Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Grand Total of Vols.	Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Branches.	Grand Total of Vols.	Lending Library.			
Barking	2	11-90	...	...	1,858	...	...	...	9,862	p.c.	518	£	405
Barrow	8	3-91	2,485	13,930	16,415	...	...	...	113,110	81	1,155	...	...
Boole	4	3-91	2,017	5,547	7,564	...	...	...	57,538	81	1,974	1,595	1,615
Brentford	2	3-91	865	2,894	3,759	...	...	...	29,241	60	316	262	349
Clitheroe	12	11-90	...	...	5,057	...	...	...	22,526	...	907	...	...
Croydon	2	3-91	1,595	8,390	7,775	...	...	...	123,613	76 c	8,601	2,100	2,564
Dundee	[21]	10-90	16,961	39,919	56,876	...	...	...	162,194	...	...	2,515	2,997
Edling	8	3-91	890	7,364	8,254	...	...	...	286,166	47	4,244	568	722
Exeter	20	4-90	5,101	9,615	14,716	...	...	...	112,886	60 k	851	648	727
Halifax	...	12-90	2,604	24,710	43,127	...	...	...	131,611	63	1,180	...	...
Kidderminster	9	10-90	402	4,570	4,972	...	...	...	36,578	86	243	300	361
Northwich	4	3-91	940	6,184	7,124	...	...	...	50,138	67	3,599	207	291
Norwich	13	3-91	8,111 m	13,486	25,466	...	...	...	90,983	75	953	1,113	1,202
Portsmouth	7	3-91	4,510	20,888	1,057 f	...	...	...	291,791	43	2,724	1,257 g	1,422
Preston	12	12-90	...	...	16,868	...	...	...	104,903	66	1,184	675	966
Richmond	10	3-91	8,094	8,982	17,076	...	...	...	87,650	72	1,719	...	...
Sheffield	34	8-90	13,324	30,642	93,902	...	...	...	97,073	62	15,340 ^a	...	276
Stafford	9	3-91	1,139	5,078	6,217	...	...	...	23,000	68	383	237	397
Twickenham	9	3-91	1,849	6,979	8,828	...	...	...	51,572	...	865	337	...
Walsall	32	10-90	...	...	13,860	...	...	...	8,879	80	473	...	...

* Tickets issued during year. a—July 15, 1889, to June 30, 1890. b—Including three reading-rooms. c—Including juvenile. d—Including balance, £1,085. e—Unbound numbers of periodicals and files of newspapers consulted. f—"Reserve." g—Id. in the £, h—Including poetry. i—Including balance, £122. j—Including 1,632 unbound magazines. k—General literature, fiction, and poetry. l—At elementary Schools. m—Also 3,466 pamphlets. n—Nine months only.

To a Dead Poet.

(In a copy of Alfred de Musset.)

DOTH it not thrill thee, Poet,
Dead and dust though thou art,
To feel how I press thy singing
Close to my heart ;
Take it at night to my pillow,
Kiss it before I sleep,
And again when the delicate morning
Beginneth to peep ?
See how I bathe thy pages
Here in the light of the sun ;
Through thy leaves, as a wind among roses,
The breezes shall run.
Feel how I take thy poem,
And bury within it my face,
As I pressed it last night in the heart of a flower,
Or deep in a dearer place.
Think, as I love thee, Poet,
A thousand love beside,
Dear women love to press thee, too,
Against a sweeter side.
Art thou not happy, Poet ?
I sometimes dream that I,
For such a fragrant fame as thine,
Would gladly sing and die.
Say, wouldst thou change thy glory
For this same youth of mine,
Were I to give my days 't the sun
For that great song of thine?

RICHARD LE GALLIENNE.

A Wardrobe Book of Queen Elizabeth.

AMONG the miscellaneous records formerly in the custody of the Auditors of the Land Revenue, and (upon the abolition of those functionaries) transferred for deposit to the Office of Land Revenue Records, is a Wardrobe book of some interest, as furnishing an inventory of the chief articles of apparel and ornament worn by Queen Elizabeth when she was well advanced in years. Her personal vanity, and the delight she took in enhancing such charms as she possessed by the aid of splendid and fantastic dresses, are prominent among the characteristics with which the historians of her time, and the contemporary painters to whom she sat for her portrait, have made us familiar. Her anxiety that the public reproductions of her should do justice to "her person, favour, or grace," is attested by the proclamation which she issued in 1563, forbidding the exhibition of any attempts to delineate her features by picture or engraving, until a "perfect pattern and example by the hand of some special cunning painter," to whom she intended to sit, had been approved and licensed by herself.¹ The Scottish Envoy, Melville, mentions her having and wearing dresses of every country;² and several of her extant portraits by Lucas de Heere, Federigo Zuccherò, Mark Gheerardts, and Nicholas Hilliard, represent her in costumes remarkable rather for elaboration and singularity than for beauty or good taste. If evidence be needed to confirm these testimonies, it will be amply afforded by the Inventory under consideration, which registers the result of a special survey of her Majesty's wardrobes in three of her principal palaces, made pursuant to a commission under the Great Seal in the forty-second year of her reign (1599), directed to the Lord High Treasurer, the Chamberlain, and other officers of state.

The volume (which has suffered the loss of its original binding) is a folio of 102 leaves of paper fairly written on both sides, each

¹ State Papers, draft corrected by Cecil. Printed in *Archæologia*, II. 169-170.

² Cited in Walpole's *Anecdotes of Painting*, II., 240.

page being subscribed by the signature of the Lord Treasurer Buckhurst. A duplicate volume appears to have been placed in the keeping of Sir Thomas Gorges, then Gentleman of the Robes.

The ceremonial and verbose language of the heading deserves transcription, if only because of the high importance which the royal commissioners evidently attached to this record of their labours :

"A Booke of all suche garmentes, jewells, silkes and other stuffes, garnishementes of gold, pearle and stone; and alsoe of dyvers stones of severall natures and workmanship as are remayninge in the Office of the Garderobe of Robes the xxvijth daie of Julye in the xlijth yere of the raigne of our Sovereigne Ladye Elizabeth by the grace of God of Englande Fraunce and Irelande Queene, Defend^r of the Faith etc. and nowe in the chardge of S^r Thomas Gorges Knight Gentleman of the Robes, at whiche tyme the Right Honourable Thomas Lorde Buckhurste Lorde Highe Treasoror of England, George Lorde Hunsdon Lorde Chamberlaine of Her Ma^{ties} House, S^r John Fortescue Knighte Chauncelo^r and under-Treasoror of Thexcheq^r and S^r John Stanhop Knight Treasoror of her highnes Chamber, by virtue of her highnes Commission under the Greate Seale of Englande bearing date the iiijth daie of Julie in the saide xlijth yere of her highnes raigne to them or to any three of them (whereof the saide Lorde Treasoror or Lorde Chamblaine to be alwaies one) in that behalfe directed, Did repaire to the saide Garderobe of the Robes as well wⁱⁿ the Courte as at the Tower of London and Whitehall and there did take a pfect survey of all suche Robes garmentes and jewells and other pcells as at that tyme were there found to remayne, Accordinge to whiche S^rvey they have caused to be written twoe severall bookes, the one of whiche bookes is subscribed w^t the handes of the saide Commissioners and remayneth for a chardge to the saide Office of the Robes; the other is subscribed by the saide S^r Thomas Gorges Knight and remayneth with the saide Lord Treasoror."

Under the first section of "Robes," the Inventory catalogues three which had belonged to Edward VI. As no use could have been made of them since his death, they had presumably been hoarded either on account of the richness of the materials, or of the historical and personal associations attaching to their ownership. They are thus described :

"ROBES LATE KINGE EDWARDE THE VIth.

"Firste one Robe of clothe of sylver lyned w^t white satten of the Order of St. Michēll w^t a brode border of enbroderie w^t a

wreathe of Venice gold and the skallope shell and a fringe of the same gold and a small border aboute that, the grounde being blew vellat³ enbrodered w^t halfe moones of silver, w^t a whoode and a Tippet of crimsen vellat w^t a like enbroderie, the Tippet perished in one place w^t ratts, and a coate of clothe of silver w^t demisleaves, w^t a fringe of Venice golde.

"Issued to the } "Item one kirtle of crimsen vellat lyned w^t King's taylor } white Taphata⁴ for the Order of the Garter.

"Item one kirtle of crimsen Vellat lyned w^t white s'rconet w^t a border rounde aboute of Mynnever powdered⁵ w^t Armyons⁶ w^t a whoode of the same Vellat furred w^t Mynnever and powdered Armyons for the Parliament Robe."

The second section, "Apparell," evidently relates to that of Elizabeth herself, and includes the description of a gorgeous garment which may be taken as typical of the rest :

"Item one gowne of purple golde tissue with a brode garde⁷ of purple vellat enbrodered w^t Venice golde and w^t wreathes of purles⁸ of damaske golde edged w^t vellat unlyned."

"Jewelles" is the heading of the next short section, the chief items in which are brooches set with gems, after the following fashion :

"Firste one Brouche of golde w^t a small Table⁹ Rubie in it and divers psonages.

"Item one Brouche of golde of St. Pawle w^t a Table diamonde and twoe small Table Rubies."

Several pairs of "agletts"¹⁰ and buttons of gold "enamelled of sondrie sorts" are then enumerated. The last item is a jewelled dagger thus described :

"Item one dagger, the hefte, hilde and pomell of christall garnished w^t golde, the shethe of steele wroughte Damaskine worke, the locker,¹¹ chape¹² and garnishment in the midst of golde, having thereon fower rubies and fower emerods¹³ greate and small, wantinge the biggest emerode in the locker, haveing a Tassell of Venice golde garnished w^t pearles and fower perles pendaunt, lackinge one button upon the crosse."

Next follows a list of the "Gownes late Queene Maries." It is matter of history that Mary's accession to the throne was marked by a sudden and violent change from her previously sober habit of dress to an extravagant fondness for gay and costly clothing, which so astonished Noailles, the French Ambassador, that he repeatedly

³ Velvet.

⁴ A thin silk.

⁵ Sprinkled.

⁶ Ermines.

⁷ Border.

⁸ Spangles, studs, raised points.

⁹ Cut flat.

¹⁰ Tags, pendants.

¹¹ Spring.

¹² Catch.

¹³ Emeralds.

referred to it in his official correspondence. An example or two from this list will suffice to illustrate her taste :

"Firste one Frenche Gowne of purple clothe of golde lined w^t purple Taphata w^t wide sleeves to the same.

"Item one Frenche gowne of riche golde tissue w^t a border of purple satten all over enbrodered w^t purles of damaske golde and pearle lyned w^t purple Taphata, lackinge sondrie small pearls taken of."

The succeeding section of "Robes" opens with a description of Elizabeth's "Coronacon Robes," which may be thus condensed :

"Firste one mantle of clothe of gold tissued w^t golde and silver, furred with powdered Armyons, w^t a mantle lace of silk and golde w^t buttons and tassells to the same.

"Item one kirtle of the same tissue, the trains and skirts furred w^t powdered Armyons, the coat lyned w^t sarconet, w^t a paire of bodies and sleeves to the same.

"Parliament Robes.	{	"Item one mantle of crimsen vellat furred through- oute w ^t powdered Armyons, the mantle lace of silke and golde w ^t buttons and tassells to the same.
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"Item a kirtle and circoate¹⁴ of the same crimsen vellat
w^t a cappe of maintenance to the same striped downeright w^t passamaine lace¹⁵ of golde w^t a tassell of golde to the same."

Of the Queen's miscellaneous robes the following are noteworthy examples :

"Item one mantle of Venice golde, silver and murray silke,¹⁶ laide rounde aboute w^t a passamaine lace of Venice golde, silver and flatt silver.

"Item one mantle of carnacon and purple unshorne vellatt in waves furred through w^t mynnever spotted.

"Item one mantle of white networke diamonde-wise wrought like small cobwebb roundell worke¹⁷ laid w^t silver plate.

"Item one mantle of white lawne cut and turned in, enbrodered all over w^t workes in silver like pomegranetts, roses, honiesockles and acornes."

The lengthy section of "Frenche Gownes" which follows, furnishes proof that the supremacy of "that sweet enemy France" in the field of fashion was recognised as unquestionably in the days

¹⁴ For surcoat.

¹⁵ A lace so costly that in a Parliamentary Scheme of 1549, it was proposed to forbid any under the rank of an Earl to wear it.—HALLIWELL.

¹⁶ Dark red.

¹⁷ Circular patterns.

of the Tudors as it is in our own. A few typical items will suffice as illustrations :

"Item one Frenche gowne of clothe of silver w^t branches of watchet¹⁸ and orange colo^r silke tissued w^t golde, garded w^t aishel¹⁹ colo^r Taphata laide w^t networke enbrodered w^t ciphers, flower de luces and crownes of Venice gold.

"Item one Frenche gowne of pawle²⁰ colo^r vellat w^t a brode border of decaied trees of Venice golde, silver and silke w pendaunte sleeves lyned w^t white satten enbrodered w^t like workes.

"Item one Frenche gowne of tawnye satten enbrodered all over w^t knotts, sonnes and cloudes of golde, silver and silke, furred w^t luzarnes."²¹

Among other materials used are mentioned "heare²² colo^r vellatt" and "claie colo^r or Isabella colo^r²³ clothe of silver;" the patterns of embroidery thereon including "a brode border like pillars and Essefimes²⁴ of Venice golde," "knottes and snailes and a few bugle," and "ragged seede pearle like a deade tree."

Under the next heading of "Rounde Gownes," by which may probably be understood the skirts covering the hoops or fardingales that were introduced about the middle of the Queen's reign, is described one made "of the Irishe facion, of orange Tawnye satten cut and snipte, garded thicke overthwarte w^t aish colo^r vellat enbrodered w^t Venice golde and spangles." Others are said to be made of "white clothe of silver" and "Beasar²⁵ colo^r satten" and ornamented respectively with "workes of yellow silke like flies, wormes and snailes" and workes of silver like Gynney wheate and branches."

A few extracts from the next section of "Loose Gownes," which occupies several pages, afford the best illustrations of one characteristic mark of Elizabeth's taste that prevails throughout the Inventory, viz., her dominant preference for rich and showy fabrics usually distinguished by tints either of extreme lightness and delicacy or subtly combined; e.g. "watchet Silke;" "horse-fleshe colo^r," "drake's colo^r," "ladie-blushe" and "partridge colo^r satten"; "white golde chamblet²⁶ or Tabine,"²⁷ "white Tiffany²⁸ or Capha,"²⁹ "white Carle³⁰

¹⁸ Pale blue.

¹⁹ Ash.

²⁰ Pale.

²¹ Lynx-skins.

²² Hoary.

²³ So called from the dingy tint acquired by the linen of the Archduchess Isabella, daughter of Philip II. of Spain, who, having vowed not to change it until the besieged town of Ostend was taken, had to wear it for three years.

²⁴ Esses are the collars of SS. worn by Knights of the Garter. Essefimes may be figures like stanchions, which are S-shaped.

²⁵ Probably a form of bis or byse—a delicate blue.

²⁶ A stuff of camel's hair and silk.

²⁷ A waved silk.

²⁸ Thin silk.

²⁹ Damask cloth.

³⁰ In wavy lines.

laide w^t golde lace" and "white Tillyselye³¹ like grograine."³² The laces used as borders included "bone-lace," "passamaine lace," "fillament lace³³ of Venice silver," and "compas³⁴ lace of blacke silke and silver."

A lengthy list of "Kirtells" opens with "one faire round Kirtle of purple clothe of golde and silver enbrodered w^t a border of roses and other leaves of Venice golde and silver." The chief fabrics shown to be used for this article of dress are vari-tinted cloths of gold, notably "murrey," "strawe color," "fylberd color" and "aishe color"; "watchet or blewe gold baudekyn,"³⁵ welte^d w^t blue vellat"; "white clothe of silver cheverned³⁶ with bluncket³⁷ w^t lace of golde"; other cloths of silver, ranging in tint from "Isabella or flax-seed color" to "synamon color" and "skye-color"; "white," and "claie coloured satten, or *terra sigillata*"; "beasar color silver chamblet" and "white China capha damaske." The ornament employed is for the most part curiously *bizarre*, including "workes," *i.e.* patterns of "snailes, wormes, flies and spiders" "like feathers and cockell-shells," "like flames, pescods and pillars," and "like pome-granets and artichoques." Special fashions of cutting, mysteriously dark to the male mind, but intelligible enough, it may be, to ladies, are indicated in such descriptions as "satten cutt tackle-upp" and "cloth of silver cutt billetwise upon peache color silke."

The next section is devoted to "Forepartes," which I conjecture to be practically equivalent to "placards" or stomachers. Their materials and modes do not substantially differ from those already mentioned, but the following novelties may be noticed: "Snipete clothe of gold striped w^t gold and silver"; "heare color satten ruft all over in waves of stitched lawne"; "white satten enbrodered verie faire w^t borders of the sonne, moone and other signes and plannetts of Venice golde, silver, etc."; "peache-color satten enbrodered all over verie faire w^t dead trees, flowers, and a lyon in the midst, garded w^t many pearles of sondry sortes"; "wier-worke like green mosse-worke and beastes of sundrie facions upon branches"; "Lawne enbrodered w^t bees and sondrye wormes"; "flowers of silkewoman's worke"; and "puffes in cinques of needle-worke."

A long list of "Peticocoates" follows, wherein the most noteworthy

³¹ Perhaps a form of "telere"—fine linen cloth.

³² Stuff with a rough pile.

³³ Usually applied to that worn on the head or neck.

³⁴ Outlined or circular.

³⁵ Silk interwoven with gold or silver tissue.

³⁶ Inserted chevron-wise.

³⁷ A white stuff—probably woollen.

feature is the odd assortment of designs embroidered or otherwise figured upon these garments; e.g. "blewe satten enbrodered all over w^t flowers and beasts of Venice golde, silver and silke like a wilderness"; "white satten enbrodered all over w^t blacke flies w^t a border of fountaines and trees enbrodered roundabout it and waves of the sea"; "a verie faire border of pomegranets, pyneapple trees, frutidge and the Nyne Muses in the same border"; "enbrodered w^t candlestickes of Venice golde upon sea-water greene silke"; "Sylver tyncell wrought in squares like castle-walles w^t a border of greene silke needlaworke and other devyses like waves."

Under the head of "Cloakes," where a reader, guided by the usages of modern taste, might expect to discover indications of an approach to sobriety in the choice of materials, patterns and colours suited for external wear, it is surprising to find the royal fancy revealing more riotously than ever in gorgeous fabrics, rainbow-tints and obtrusive decoration. The stuffs chiefly mentioned are "blacke clothe of gold . . . lyned w^t strawe-colo^r tuft taphata, the grounde silver"; "dove-colo^r" and "aishe-colo^r cloth of golde . . . lyned with peache-colo^r plush"; "Sylver bawdekyn w^t leaves of purple silke and golde, garded w^t crimson vellatt"; "russett," "iron-colo^r" and "flame-colo^r clothe of silver"; "pawle-colo^r carnacon vellatt"; and "cheeselic³⁸ greene silke." Among the patterns of embroidery are "workes like harts, flames and slippes," "flowers, akornes and peascoddes of silke of sondry colo^{rs}"; "golde purle upon lawnelike vyneleaves and wormes"; "borders like friars knotts lyned w^t strawe-colo^r and blewe chaungeable³⁹ Taphata"; and "hawthorne trees, essefirmes, ciphers, hopes and other devises." The furs used for linings and trimmings include "mynnever," "Rusken⁴⁰ greypaned,"⁴¹ "Callaber⁴² spotted" and "white conye."

In the two following sections of "Cloakes and Saufegardes" and "Saufegardes and Juppes" a few novel tints are introduced, such as "celestiall colo^r" and "gozeling colour Taphata," "Taphata called pounce-Sythorne⁴³ colo^r," "meale-colo^r vellatt in workes like blasinge starres," "brasell⁴⁴ colo^r clothe of sylver," "willowe colo^r vellatt," "orange colo^r or marigold colo^r vellatt," "pincke or dove-colo^r satten," "sande colo^r Spanishe Taphata," and "palme colo^r tuft Taphata."

The "Dublettes" or "Jaquettes," which come next, are variously described as of "Isabella-colo^r clothe of golde," "white satten,"

³⁸ Perhaps for "chizzly," hard, crude.

⁴⁰ Russian.

⁴¹ In stripes or squares.

⁴² Probably for *pomme de citron*.

³⁹ What would now be called "shot."

⁴³ Fur from Calabria (Ducange.)

⁴⁴ A red dye.

"camericke," "copper-silver Tyffanye," and "perfumed leather." Their embroidery comprises patterns of "cloudes verie faire skallopp façon w^t flowers and frutes of Venice golde," and "seas with fishes, castles and sonnebeames of Venice golde, silver and silke of sundrie colo^r."

"Lappe-mantles" occupy a short section, which may be sufficiently illustrated by the initial entry: "Firste one lappe mantle of watchett clothe of silver w^t flowers of murrey and yellow silke lyned w^t crimson unshorne vellatt." Two other items may be noted, viz.: "China worke lyned with watchet plushe," and "white plushe w^t a pane⁴⁵ of redd swannedowne in the midst."

A brief list is then given of the stock of "Silkes" and some other materials kept in the Tower wardrobe. They include "twoe remnants of black barrell" silk, "tawnie networke florished w^t golde, called birdes in the cage," strawe-colo^r India canvas," "white silke carle," "murrey or pale colo^r," "drake's colo^r," and "pale rushe colo^r vellatt," and "handkercheifes like Barber's aprons."

In the choice of "Fannes" (always among the most effective weapons in the armoury of a professed coquette, as Elizabeth notoriously was), her Majesty's taste was sufficiently splendid. The first upon the list, with its jewelled setting, is worth describing in full:

"Firste one fanne of white feathers, w^t a handle of golde garnished w^t fower faire diamondes, twoe faire rubies, twoe small diamondes and seven rock-rubies and one emerode, w^t a faire lookinge-glasse garnished w^t gold sett w^t three small table-rubies w^t a redd and white rose in the midst, enameled w^t a septer and a crowne over it in the handle thereof, in a case of black vellatt laide w^t a passamaine of Venice golde, and one verie little laver of silver guilte w^t a spoute, the handle broken."

Another fan is distinguished by "a handle of golde, havinge twoe snakes windinge aboute it garnished wth a Ball of diamondes in the ende and a crowne on each side." A third is said to be made "of the feathers of the Birde of Paradise and other colored feathers," set with stars formed of sapphires. The handle of a fourth is described as being of "Elitropia," no doubt the stone called by the ancients *heliotropium*, which according to the lexicographer Littleton, "shews the sun as it were a looking-glass, and discovers his eclipse."

A list follows of the royal slippers, disguised under the imported name of "Pantobles," some of which were made of as costly materials

⁴⁵ A stripe or square.

and as fantastically embroidered as the dresses; e.g., "one paire . . . of carnaçon vellatt embr. with handes and eyes, set w^t a border of pearle of sundrie sorts"; another "of cloth of silver"; others embroidered with "silke needle-worke like roses" upon a silver ground, and "w^t Venice golde and seede perle."

Under the heading of "Sondrie Parcells" it will be sufficient to note two or three items, viz., "parte of a furre of sables for a night-gowne"; "one sword w^t a pomell of sanguinarie⁴⁶"; "one canopie of crimson Capha damaske (to carry over one), striped w^t lace of Venice gold and silver, the handle mother of pearle"; and "fower luzarne skynnes."

The concluding list of "Jewells," which consists of three sections, viz., those kept in the wardrobe, and those entrusted to the respective custodies of the Countess of Nottingham and Mrs. Mary Radcliffe, her Majesty's principal Ladies of the Chamber, comprises not only such personal trinkets as were obviously intended to be worn, but many articles which in the present day would be classed among *bric-a-brac*. A few may be estimated as probably of considerable value; the majority were of curiously fanciful design. The following are among the most interesting examples:

"Item one small jewell of golde like a white lyon w^t a flie on his side, standing upon a base or foote garnished w^t twoe opalls, twoe verie little pearles, fyve rubies, one rubie pendaunt and twoe little shorte chaines on the backe of the lyon.

"Item one jewell of golde like an angell, the bodie mother of pearle, the winges garnished w^t sparks of diamonds and rubies and twoe antiques like horses under it, garnished w^t little sparks of rubies and twoe diamondes. . . .

"Item one jewell like a frogge, of aggatt w^t three diamondes and one rubie on the head . . . standinge upon a flower-de-luce of golde. . . .

"Item one fearne branche of golde, havinge therein a lyzarde, a ladie-cow and a snaile. . . .

"Item one jewelle of golde like a circle of paunceis dasies and other flowers garnished w^t sparks of diamonds and rubies, havinge therein a butterflye of mother of pearle garnished w^t sparks of rubies, and a crabbe holdinge the same."

Of gold buttons there is a large assortment, including some set 'w^t ragged staves and true loves of diamondes," and others "called peasecoddess" set with pearls. One of the personal jewels is de-

⁴⁶ Probably bloodstone.

scribed as containing "her Ma^y picture graven wⁱⁿ a garnett." "Emerodds," "jacints," and "saphires" are the other precious stones mentioned.

Bound up in the same volume with the inventory are some leaves in a different handwriting, which contain respective lists of the stock of sheets and other bed-furniture belonging to the royal household ; of the robes of the Order of St. George ; of the various garments worn by the Queen's liveried domestics, both male and female, and the supplies of materials required for renewing them. Among the articles of women's clothing are enumerated such items as "partlets," or habit-shirts, and "placards," or stomachers, which the preceding inventory of the Queen's apparel does not specify, although she must undoubtedly have possessed an ample supply of them. Collectively these lists are of interest as evidence of the extensive scale upon which the dignity of the Tudor sovereigns was maintained, but they contain no entries sufficiently curious to call for extraction.

HENRY G. HEWLETT.



Book Sales by R. H. Evans (1812-1845).

THE first appearance of Mr. Evans as an auctioneer was at the famous "Roxburghe" sale in June, 1812, and from that time until August, 1845, when he sold the last part of the library of the Duke of Sussex, a very large proportion of the most important collections dispersed by auction in London during that period fell under his hammer. The following list includes every sale worth recording of which he had the charge. The names printed in *italics* denote libraries sold anonymously, but whose owners have been subsequently ascertained.

Abrantes, Duc d' (Marshal Junot). A very remarkable collection of books, printed on vellum by Didot and other eminent printers, the most noteworthy being the unique copy of Longus's <i>Pastoralia</i> , printed expressly for him by Didot, with the original drawings by Prudhon, and a set of proof impressions of the engravings to illustrate the work. Sold for £37 10s.	1816
Ditto, part ii.	1817
Absolom, Philip (Heraldic, MSS., etc.)	1841
Alchorne, S. The portion of his library not retained by Earl Spencer (who had bought it entire), to which were added some duplicates from the Althorpe library	1813
<i>Anderson</i> , —. Autographs and other MSS. originally advertised for sale in March, 1830, but postponed to	1833
Astle, Edward (with part ii. of the Duke of Norfolk's library).	1817
<i>Auckland, Lord</i>	1835
Bagot, Sir Charles, G.C.B.	1844
Barclay, Robert (Botanical, etc.)	1831
Barnes, W.	1822
Beauchamp, Lord	1824
<i>Beckford</i> , —	1828
Bedford, Duke of (duplicates)	1840
Bedford, W., F.S.A. (English Topography, etc.)	1833
Bentham, W., F.S.A.	1838
Berri, Duchesse de	1831
Berridge, W.	1819
Betham, Sir W. (MSS., etc.)	1830
Bindley, James, part i.	1818
Do. part ii.	1819
Blackburn, John	1822
<i>Bland</i> , —	1832
Blandford, Marquess of (the "White Knight's" library), 2 parts	1819
Do. (a "supplementary" sale, catalogues of which are rarely met with)	June, 1820

Boaden, James	1827
Bolland, Baron	1840
Borromeo, Count	1817
Bourke, E. F., part i.	1831
Do. part ii.	1832
Broadley, John, part i.	1832
Do. part ii. (containing the celebrated "Bedford" Missal, bought for Sir John Tobin for £1,100, and now in the British Museum)	1833
Buckham, Rev. P. W.	1829
Burke, Right Hon. Edmund	1833
Butler, Archdeacon	1827
Butler, Charles	1832
Butler, Rev. Weeden	1831
Byron, Lord	1827
Caley, John, F.R.S., F.S.A.	1833
Carlisle, Dean of	1833
Chalmers, George, part i.	1841
Do. parts ii. and iii.	1842
Chamier, John	1831
Chauncey, J. H. (with duplicates "from the library of a nobleman")	1821
Chetwynd, Lord	1821
Cimitili, Prince	May, 1835
Clare, Sir M. B. (with Burke)	1833
Clarke, Adam, LL.D.	1833
Cocker, B. C.	1824
Combes, W. (early printed and MSS.), 2 parts	1837
At this sale a copy of <i>Martialis Epigrammata</i> , ed. pr. (<i>Ferrara</i> , 1471), of which only two others are known, was bought for the Bodleian Library for £60.	
Conde, J. A. (Spanish books), 2 parts	1824
Coxe, Archdeacon	1828
Cross, G. R., 2 parts	1830
Crosse, John (of Hull)	1829
Cunningham, —	1831
Dallaway, Rev. James	1841
Dalton, Colonel	1827
Dance, G.	1837
Dent, John, 2 parts	1827
A very interesting and important note in part ii. (No. 1394) on Dugdale's <i>Monasticon</i> .	
David, John (illustrated books and MSS.)	1821
De Missy, C.	1824
Devonshire, Duke of (duplicates), 2 parts	1815
Dibdin, T. F., D.D. (bibliographical, etc.)	1817
Dobree, Samuel	1827
Dodd, J. W. (dramatic, etc.)	1815
Do.	1818
Dowdeswell, James	1820
Dowdeswell, Lieut.-Col.	1828
Drury, H.	1827
Do.	1837
Duppa, R.	1831
Durham, Bishop of (MSS.)	1838
Edwards, James (<i>Bookseller</i>)	1815

Next in importance to the "Bedford" Missal, bought by the Marquess of Blandford for £687 10s., and sold by him to Mr.

Broadley, was probably the *Livius* (No. 278), *ed. pr.* (1469), the only known copy on vellum, bought for £903 by Sir M. M. Sykes, and at his sale, in 1824, by Payne and Foss for £472 10s. From them it passed into the hands of Mr. Dent, and at his sale, in 1827, was bought again by Payne and Foss for £262 10s., for Mr. Grenville (now in the British Museum).

Erschine, John 1817

In addition to the *Jason* (bought by Mr. G. Watson Taylor), there was another "Caxton" in this sale, viz., a perfect copy of the *Chastysing of God's Children*, bound in one vol. with the *Tretise of Love* (W. de Worde, 1493); but it appears to have been withdrawn, as Mr. Evans has put no price against it in his marked catalogue. I have not yet been able to identify it with any of the existing known copies.

Fagel, H.	1813
Falconer, Rev. Dr.	1842
Fazakerley, —	1831
Ferrers, Rev. E.	1826
Francis, Sir Philip	1838
Franch, James, M.D. (Topography, etc.)	1843
Freeling, Sir Francis, Bart.	1836
Freeling, Sir George H., Bart.	1842
Fryer, Dr.	1827
Gilchrist, —	1824
Glen, Rev. John	1833
Goldsmid, J. L. (Romances of chivalry, etc.)	1815
Grace, Sheffield	1841
Gresley, Sir Roger, Bart.	1838
Grey, Hon. and Rev. Anchetil	1834
Guildford, Earl of, part i.	1830
Do. part ii.	1831
Do. part iii.	1835
Gurdon, Th. P. (drawings and engravings)	1834
Do. (books)	1834
Gutch, J. M.	1817
Gwillt, — (early English Music, etc.)	1840
Hamper, W., F.S.A. (books, MSS., and autographs)	1831
Hanrott, P. A., parts i. and ii.	1833
Do. parts iii., iv., v.	1834
Harding and Lepard (<i>Booksellers</i>)	1838
Harman, Jeremiah	1844
Haslewood, Joseph	1833
Hayes, S.	1828
Haygarth, W.	1827
Heber, Richard, part iv.	1834
Do. parts vi. and vii.	1835
Do. part viii.	1836
Do. part xi. (MSS.)	1836
Parts i., ii., iii., ix., and x. were sold by Sotheby and Son ;	
parts v., xii., and xiii. (the last) by Mr. Wheatley.	
Heywood, Serjeant, 2 parts	1829
Hibbert, George, 4 parts	1829
Hill, Thomas	1841
Hochepped, Baron	1823
Hodges, Christopher	1814
Horner, Francis	1831
Hurd, Philip	1832
Do. part ii.	1845

Isted, G.	1822
James, Rev. D. (Bishop of Calcutta)	1830
Johnson, J. Mordaunt	1817
Jones, John (of Exeter)	1822
Jones, Sir William (Oriental, etc.)	1831
Joy, H. Hall, Q.C.	1843
Junot, Field-Marshal (<i>see</i> D'Abrantes)	
Kemble, John P.	1821
Kerry, Earl of	1819
Kirkpatrick, G. (Ornithology, etc.)	1839
Knight, E.	1821
Knight, R. Payne	1829
Langdon, Augustus	1837
Leman, Rev. Thomas	1834
Linnæan Society (duplicates)	1831
Littledale, Edward	1837
Lofft, Capel	1825
Lovelace, Lord	1845
Lowe, Sir Hudson	1844
Lunn, W. H. (<i>Bookseller</i>)	1816
Lysons, Daniel	1828
Do. remainder	1834
Lysons, Samuel	1820
The copy of Fabian's <i>Chronicle</i> (1st ed., 1516), bought at this sale by Lord Aylesford for £35, was stated in the catalogue to have been "made complete by some leaves from another edition," but there was no note of this when the same copy was sold in 1888 for £250 to Mr. Christie-Miller.	
McCulloch, Rev. T.	1832
Mackintosh, Sir James	1832
Malkin, B. H., LL.D.	1828
Marchmont, Earl of	1830
Markham, Archdeacon	1838
Mathias, T. J.	1820
Do. (MS., correspondence, etc.)	1837
Meigh, Charles	1831
Melfort, Earl of, <i>Secretary of State to James I.</i> (MSS., State papers, autographs, etc.)	1828
Meyer, Dr.	1825
Milner, John	1829
Do.	1845
Miranda, General, part i.	1828
Do. part ii.	1833
Mitchell, Joseph, M.D.	1839
Mountmorres, Lord	1833
Nalbach, — (early printed books, etc.)	1832
Nares, Archdeacon	1829
Nash, J. (<i>Architect</i>)	1835
Nassau, George, 2 parts	1824
Do. (Drawings and water colours).	1824
Neunburg, G. V.	1822
Nicholson, A., F.S.A. (2 parts)	1830
Nicol, G. and W. (<i>Booksellers</i>)	1825
The vellum printed copy of the "Mazarin" Bible, sold in 1873 for £3,400, was bought by Mr. H. Perkins at this sale for £504.	
Nicol, Mrs.	1822
Nixon, John, part i.	1817
Do. part ii.	1818

Noailles, Comte de	1835
Noble, Mark	1827
Do. (Collection of portraits to illustrate Granger's History)	1827
Norfolk, Duke of	1816
Do.	1817
Do. (and others)	1821
North, John, 3 parts	1819
The copy of Fabyan's <i>Chronicle</i> (Pynson, 1516), sold in part iii. for £92, was described as "perfect." Mr. N. gave £84 for it at Roberts' sale, in 1815.	
Nugent, Sir John	1829
Ord, Craven	1830
Do.	1832
Ormerod, — (Vicar of Kensington)	1816
Ossory, Earl of	1819
Packer, W.	1830
Do. (Prints, etc., and Granger's <i>History</i> , in 4 vols., folio, illustrated with 2,313 portraits. Sold for £42.)	1830
Parr, Rev. Sam., LL.D.	1828
Passavant, M. de Speyer	1836
Mr. Evans gives in this catalogue a long description, extending over six pages, of the MS. <i>Biblia Latina</i> , written by Alcuin for the Emperor Charlemagne, and presented to him at his coronation in the year 801. It was sold for £1,500.	
Perceval, Rev. John	1832
Pemberton, Dr.	1822
Perry, James, parts i., ii., iii.	1822
Do. part iv.	1823
Petrie, H., Keeper of the Records	1842
Phelps, I. D., F.R.S., F.S.A.	1843
Philipe, T.	1817
Philips, Nathaniel	1837
Phillips, George	1818
Piccolomini, Signor (Books and MSS.)	1840
A copy of the first edition of the <i>Augsburg Confession</i> (1530), with Melancthon's <i>Apologia</i> , with MS. notes by M. Luther, and five additional sheets containing all the variations in the text, was sold for £10.	
Pimm, Jos.	1834
Pollock, W.	1818
Protheroe, —	1832
Radclyffe, W., <i>Rouge-Croix</i> (Heraldic, MSS., etc.)	1833
Randolph, Dr. (Bishop of London)	1814
Rennie, John, F.R.S., parts i. and ii.	1829
Do. part iii.	1833
Renouard, M. (<i>Aldines</i> , etc.)	1828
Do.	1830
Do.	1834
Rigaud, S. P.	1839
Roberts, J.	1815

In this sale were three "Caxtons"; one, viz., the *Catho*, we know was Dibdin's, and the other two, *Chronicles of England* and *Description of Britain*, were doubtless also his. In the *Lincoln Nosegay* these three works, with a copy of the first edition of the *Dictes and Sayings of the Philosophers* (1477), appeared as part of the collection which Dibdin had bought from the Dean and

Chapter of Lincoln, the *Chronicles and Description of Britain* being then bound in one vol. He seems to have had all three subsequently rebound.

Do. (Chinese drawings, etc.)	1817
Rogers, W. L.	1839
Rose, Rev. Hugh James	1839
Roxburghe, Duke of	1812
Scott, Sir Claude, Bart.	1831
Scott, Sir Walter (the original MSS. of <i>Waverley</i> , <i>Guy Mannering</i> , <i>Rob Roy</i> , <i>Antiquary</i> , <i>Ivanhoe</i> , <i>Old Mortality</i> , etc.)	1831
Seaford, Lord	1832
Serra, Duc de Cassano	1826
Do. (MSS.)	1828
Seymour, Lord Henry	1830
Shepherd, W.	1816
Smedley, Rev. J. E.	1826
<i>Solly</i> , — (including the library of the Benedictine monastery at Landspring)	1831
Spencer, Earl (<i>Duplicates</i>)	1815
Do. Do.	1821
Stanley, Colonel	1813
A perfect set of <i>De Bry</i> , bound in 7 vols., bought by the Duke of Devonshire for £546. In the catalogue is a long and interesting note on it by Mr. Evans.	
Stapylton, Major-General	1832
Stretzell, Amos	1820
Do. part ii.	1841
Sumner, Dr., Provost of King's Coll., Camb.	1814
Sussex, H.R.H. Duke of, parts i., ii., and iii.	1844
Do. parts iv., v., and vi.	1845
Sykes, Sir M. M., Bart., 3 parts.	1824
At this sale Mr. Perkins bought, for £199 10s., the "Mazarin" Bible printed on paper, which brought, at the sale of his library in 1873, £2,690. The Latin <i>Psalter</i> , etc., 2nd edition, 1459 (<i>red morocco</i>), sold here for £136 10s., and at Sir John Thorold's sale in 1884 for £4,950, was erroneously stated in the latter catalogue as being the same copy which was sold in the MacCarthy sale (1815) for 3,350 francs. The MacCarthy copy was in <i>blue morocco</i> , and was bought by Mr. Hibbert, at whose sale, in 1829, it was bought for Baron Westreenen.	
Tate, Rev. James	1844
Taylor, Sir Simon, Bart.	1833
Thompson, Sir Peter	1815
Thorpe, Th. (<i>Bookseller</i>), 6 parts (part v., MSS.; part vi., Spanish Books)	1826
Tomline, Bishop of Lincoln (part of library)	1842
Towneley, J., parts i. and ii.	1814
Do. part iii.	1815
Do. (collection of portraits to illustrate <i>Granger</i> . Eleven days' sale).	1828
<i>Treuttel and Wurtz</i> (Booksellers)	1830
Turner, W.	1834
<i>Upcott, W.</i>	1836
Valentine, Rev. W.	1842
Valpy, Rev. Edward	1831
Valpy, Rev. Richard, D.D.	1832
Vincent, Rev. Dr.	1816
Watts, J. Turner	1826

Way, Rev. L.	1833
Weale, James (chiefly relating to Ireland)	1840
Wellesley, Marquess of	1843
Wilbraham, Rev. Roger	1829
Wilkinson, —	1828
Wilkinson, George (MSS., Missals, etc.)	1836
Yates, J.	1827
Yonge, Rev. Charles	1832
Young, Professor J. (<i>of Glasgow</i>)	1825

In addition to the above may be mentioned a few other collections sold anonymously, which I have not been able to assign to their respective owners. These are:

1. "Library of a Nobleman," consisting chiefly of early editions of the classics, books on large paper, etc. (*May*, 1815).
2. Early English and Italian printed books, illuminated MSS., Missals, etc. (*June*, 1817).
3. MSS. and early printed books (*November*, 1830).
4. Autographs, etc., among which was Shakespeare's autograph signature to a deed of sale of a house in Blackfriars, with sales attached, dated March 10, 1612. Sold for £145 (*May*, 1843).

F. NORGATE.



An Early Sixteenth Century A B C.

An Early Sixteenth Century A B C in Latin after the Use of Sarum, reproduced from the unique vellum-printed original in the library at Lanhydrock. With a few introductory notes on the A B C, and its History. Privately printed for Lord Robartes. 1891.

IN issuing a facsimile of the unique A B C according to the use of Sarum, preserved in the library at Lanhydrock, Lord Robartes sets an excellent example to other possessors of rare books. Private libraries must always be more or less inaccessible, and it is seldom that full use can be made by students of the treasures they contain.

The reproduction of such books as are not to be found in any public library serves the double purpose of rendering them at once available for study, and of minimizing the risk of their ultimate disappearance by any of the numerous accidents to which books are liable. Like many other varieties, this copy of the A B C was found in the binding of a book. It is printed on vellum, and consists of four leaves, two unfortunately being slightly curtailed in width. As to its date there is some question, for the type is not distinctive enough to supply any certain clue, nor do its contents give much assistance on this point.

In the short introduction prefixed to the facsimile, Mr. Allnutt, of the Bodleian Library, has gathered together a number of notes on the early history and editions of the book, starting with the paper communicated by Henry Bradshaw to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society as a foundation, and adding to it references found in early books, and notes of the many editions now lost, which are mentioned in the registers of the Company of Stationers.

The liturgical side of the question Mr. Allnutt wisely leaves alone. The original purpose of the A B C, seemingly a simple question, has yet to be satisfactorily explained, and it would be impossible in the limits of a short introduction to give any adequate account of its development prior to the time when we find it published by royal authority. Its subsequent modifications have already been sketched by Mr. Bradshaw. The facsimile itself has been beautifully made by Mr. Burt, who has also restored in outline the few letters which have been cut off. There is no doubt that good handwork can still compare favourably with photographic processes, and when we compare this reproduction with one of a similar book published a year or two ago, the contrast becomes very striking.

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Notings.

The Nottingham meeting of the Library Association gives promise of being one of the best on record, so far as quantity and quality of papers are concerned; and at the same time the reception committee offer a programme of hospitalities and entertainments that speaks highly for their energy and for the liberality of the subscribers.

Mr. Briscoe has given fresh evidence of his power of organization, and it is only fair to say that he has accomplished in less than six months an amount of work for which, under ordinary circumstances, a year is considered not a day too long.

A special feature of this meeting will be the exhibition of library appliances, book-plates, and artistic bindings. We earnestly hope that the excellent suggestion of Mr. J. D. Brown—that an effort should be made to secure some of the exhibits as the basis of a permanent collection—will be carried out. Such a collection was aimed at by the founders of the Association, and is specially provided for in the constitution.

We are delighted to find that circumstances and their own fraternal inclinations conspire to give us the pleasure of meeting quite a company of our American brethren: Melvil Dewey (we will neither "Mr." him nor "Professor" him—it sounds too cold!) and his friend Mr. Biscoe, whom we had the pleasure of welcoming at the last London meeting; two ladies, whose names we have received as Mary S. Cutler and Ada Bunnell, and Mr. Crunden. We tender them all the heartiest of welcomes in the name of the Association, and trust their experience at Nottingham will be such as to bring them to our next meeting with a still larger contingent. They can't bring too many!

Satisfactory evidence of the growth of the free library movement in Paris, and of the extent to which advantage is taken of the increased opportunities for reading, is afforded in a report which has just been submitted to the Prefect of the Seine. There are now in Paris and its suburbs more than sixty of these libraries attached to the different town halls and communal schools, and the number of books lent last year amounted to 1,386,642, of which about half were novels.

The proportion of fiction does not appear to us either surprising or altogether discouraging; but the preference shown for novels seems to have disturbed the authorities, and the librarians were instructed to do what they could to induce their readers to turn their attention to works of a more serious character. The result has not been favourable. The readers apparently resented the indirect interference with their freedom of selection, and there was an immediate decrease in the number of books applied for.

Taking warning by this diminution, the Administration very sensibly withdrew the instruction, believing that it would be better for the public to read novels than not to read at all. The report also refers to the regularity with which the books are returned, not more than one-half per cent. of the total being lost in a year.

W. B. contributes to the *Academy* the following particulars of recent extensions of the Vatican Library: "Under the great hall of the Vatican Library, which is well known to those who have been to Rome, there is another of the same size that has hitherto been the Armoury. Its contents have now been removed, and in it have been placed about 185,000 printed books, which formerly filled the Borgia and other rooms situated at a considerable distance from the reading-room. For the convenience of readers in the library and those admitted to the Vatican Archives, one section of the new hall is filled with books of reference, those selected being such as serve the purpose of scholars working at MSS. The plan of the reference library resembles that of the MS. department at Paris, but is of a more international character, and includes all publications sent by foreign governments, learned societies, and literary clubs. The Pope has specially intended that the books in the reference library should represent the literature of all nations, and that students coming to work at the Vatican should find there the publications of their own countries. Besides these there are (1) the Mai collection; (2) the old papal library of printed books; (3) the Palatine library from Heidelberg; (4) the Fulvio Orsini collection; (5) that of Cardinal Zelada; (6) that of Capponi, containing Italian literature; (7) that of Cicognara (books on the history of art); (8) all subsequent historical collections down to that of Ruland, librarian of Wurzburg. The Palatine library is partly catalogued by Mr. Stevenson, junior, in three volumes, printed at the Vatican. The Orsini collection has been described by Nolhac."

Mr. George Clinch of the British Museum, Author of *Bloomsbury and St. Giles's* and *Marylebone and St. Pancras*, is now at work upon a companion volume relating to the parish of St. George, Hanover Square. The new work will be entitled *Mayfair and Belgravia*, and it is hoped that it will be ready for subscribers in the autumn of the present year. Any notes of topographical interest relating to the districts would be gladly received by Mr. Clinch, and should be addressed to him in the care of the publishers, Messrs. Truslove and Shirley, 143, Oxford Street, W.

The *Globe*, in spite of its all-embracing title, does not penetrate to the grouse moors of Argyll, and, in consequence, we were not privileged to read a certain article therein, sneering at the literary attainments of "Free Librarians," until a correspondent kindly sent us cuttings of the article, and of a letter sent in reply signed "Verax." The letter is an able one, and seems to be a complete answer to the attack, so far as the writer, who claims to be a "Free Librarian," is personally concerned.

Such general attacks on a class are always unjust and often contemptible, for it can never happen that the members of a numerous body shall be of such equal quality that either praise or blame indiscriminately bestowed shall be just. How easy it would be to write a bitter and yet wholly accurate article on "The Ignorance and Vulgarity of Journalists"! One might fill many columns of the *Globe* with instances of the crass ignorance, coarse vulgarity, and downright stupidity of journalists; but surely it would make better and more abundant copy to write of the learning, the culture, and the wisdom displayed by the best journalists of the day.

The writer of obscene jests for the vilest print of the slums is entitled to describe himself by the title which Sir Edwin Arnold is proud to bear—journalist—and in like manner the humble and illiterate care-taker who has a case of books to guard call himself by the same title as that borne by the learned chief of the National Library.

It is mere foolishness, or something worse, that can prompt a general attack like that of the *Globe* on a class so varying in the quality and worth of its members as "Free Librarians" and we can only regret that an esteemed contemporary should admit such an article to its columns. Probably the Editor's absence on a well-earned holiday may account for it. Let us hope so!

The *Library Journal* gives the following list of books called for within a few months past at a certain library:—"Sara Zenaski," "Sequel of Saracknessa which is St. Hilario," "Ilworth case," "Aristocrat of the breakfast table," "Cluster on the Hearth," "Alsop's Fables," "Hy Spatia," "Dana's Emanuel of Geology," "Bonbary Roose," by Dickens," "Helen's Water Babies," "Great Orators—their habits and nature when young," "Cæsar's Contemporaries," "Guyot's Earthen Man," "Lamb's Essay on Roast Mutton," "Roes Escaped from Eden," "Butter and Eggs and Kisses," "Trowbridge's Three Scoots," "Stock's Lady of the Lake," "Kenelworth and Chillingly Sacred Letter, by Hawthorne," "Expectoration."

Commenting on this the *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"The editor of the *Library Journal* is not gifted with a sense of humour. He tells us that somebody recently inquired at a certain library for 'Alsop's Fables,' and cites this as an instance of ignorance on the part of the applicant. It never seems to have struck him that the Allsop's Company's prospectus may have been the publication sought."

In referring to a London parish which has made itself unpleasantly notorious by the severity with which it enforces payment of its rates, the *Citizen* says: "The sharpness with which payment of the rates is enforced would not be so objectionable, perhaps, if the ratepayers were shown something for their money. The parish is one of the largest, and at the same time most spiritless in the Metropolis. It has more than once rejected the Free Libraries' Acts, has no public baths, no polytechnic or other institutions of the kind, and scarcely any open spaces of any account but what are kept up by the County Council—and all this refers to a place within three or four miles of the Royal Exchange and the centre of the universe." Name, please!

Apropos of our notice of his little book on pseudonyms, Mr. Alfred Cotgreave writes as follows: "I note your comments on 'Pseudonyms'; but as the names you have selected are just as I got them from other authorities, theirs is the blame if wrong, not mine. Kindly note this in your next, and so free my little booklet from any misjudgment your critique may otherwise occasion among my fellow-librarians."

We gladly print Mr. Cotgreave's explanation, but do not quite understand how his frank admission that he has copied from "other authorities" without verification, will help the reputation of his booklet among his fellow-librarians.

Mr. Pink, of Cambridge, sends us an amusing list of the various spellings of 'Graphic' indulged in by applicants at his library for the popular periodical of that name: Gratic, Gracphi, Grappic, Grafhic, Ghraphis, Ghrapic, and Grifec. At the same library an application for the *Illustrated London News* was recognised under the guise of "Hustratted, 1885."

Mr. W. H. K. Wright is as energetic as he is versatile. We have scarce had time to read his *Blue Friars* when another handsome volume, drawn from the same treasure-house, is placed in our hands; and now comes the prospectus of *West Country Poets, their Lives and Works*, to be shortly published by Mr. Elliot Stock. Everyone knows the truly national work he has done in connection with the Armada Commemoration, and it is not too much to say that the occasion might have passed without notice but for his enthusiasm and well-directed energy. The testimonial presented to him by the Armada Committee will be a pleasant and useful *souvenir*, but his best testimonial is that which stands on the Hoe, and will stand until the New Zealander arrives and appropriates it for building material.

The Armada disposed of, Mr. Wright must find something else to fill up what he calls his leisure, and, to judge by results, we fancy he has succeeded. The Ex-Libris Society seems to have sprung fully equipped from his active brain, and we barely realize that such a society is proposed when we are presented with the first number of *The Journal of the Ex-Libris Society*—a handsome quarto of 20 pp., containing many admirable illustrations. So far as we can judge, the matter is excellent, and is likely to be eagerly welcomed by the numerous body of book-plate collectors. No collector worthy of the name can afford to be outside such a society, and the subscription is so small—10s. 6d.—that the *Journal*, which is given free to all members, is in itself a handsome return for the money.

We congratulate Miss James, the indefatigable librarian of the People's Palace Library, on the business-like report of a half-year's work (January to June, 1891) which she has contributed to the pages of *The Palace Journal*. Miss James's figures show a steady progress in every department of the library's work, that is most gratifying. The reading of fiction is of course in excess of all other classes, but is not so much in excess as in many centres of boasted culture. Compared with the average of library returns, 69 per cent. is certainly low, and does great credit to Miss James and her coadjutors, who spend much of their time in advising their readers. Our next instalment of "Abstracts" will contain the details of Miss James's report.

Public Library Reports.

[For tabular abstract of statistics see page 351.]

A CORRECTION: BOOTLE.—In our abstract of Mr. Ogle's last report (see *Library* for August, p. 308), the sentence quoted is made nonsense of by the omission of the word "of" before "works." Readers will please correct to read as follows: "Watch is kept over the choice of works of fiction."

ASTON MANOR: Librarian, ROBERT K. DENT.—Special fund of £110 raised to buy books to form a memorial of the Queen's Jubilee. Messrs.

Ansell have given a handsome bookcase to contain the same. The "Indicator" enlarged, owing to continual growth of lending library.

BATTERSEA : Librarian, LAWRENCE INKSTER. — Branch library at Lurline Gardens opened on September 30th, 1890. Charges for interest upon and repayment of the loans are very heavy, amounting to over £1,000 per annum. The Vestry on March 25th, 1891, sanctioned the appropriation of the sum of £2,500 realized by the sale of parish lands, for the purpose of reducing the debt. The reference library and the central and branch reading-rooms opened on Sundays from 3 to 9 p.m. since October 5th, 1890. Average issue on Sundays during the six hours open has been forty, as compared with fifty-four on week-days, when open twelve hours. Since October 2nd, 1890, the lending libraries have been closed on Thursday afternoons at 1 o'clock. The commissioners invited representatives from the various library boards in the Wandsworth and Clapham Union to a conference on April 16th, 1890, re rating of libraries. The monthly meeting of the L.A.U.K. was held at the central library on December 8th, 1890, by the invitation of the commissioners, when the librarian read a paper on the "History and Working of the Public Libraries of Battersea."

CHELSEA : Librarian, J. HENRY QUINN. — Earl Cadogan opened the central library building on January 21st, 1891. Some weeks after opening it was found necessary to close the public rooms for cleaning, and it was decided to close each Wednesday at 2 p.m. for that purpose. Boys' room grown rapidly into favour. The commissioners will provide a separate supply of books for the use of this room, which is closed during school hours. The interest in the Kensal Town Branch Library is well maintained. Mr. H. Young has presented models of sculpture by the late J. Birnie Philip. Sir Charles Dilke has deposited his valuable collection of Keats' relics in the library. Page 5 should be read by all who are interested in the conversion of old buildings into library premises.

CHESTER : Librarian, THOMAS M. WILCOCK. — New catalogue of lending library is in course of preparation ; a catalogue of fiction printed. The committee state that the library increases in usefulness and is much appreciated by the citizens.

DARWEN : Librarian, MRS. BETSY BANNISTER. — The Darwen Free Library, after being carried on for upwards of eighteen years, since June, 1871, under the Public Libraries Acts, by nine commissioners, was, under the powers conferred by the Darwen Corporation Act, 1887, transferred voluntarily to the Town Council from January 1st, 1890. This was the only instance outside the county of London where § 8 of 18 & 19 Vict., cap. lxx., was carried into force. Mr. Ephraim Neville, who had been connected with the library from its commencement, nearly forty years before, resigned in February, 1890, and the committee voted him a full twelve months' salary in advance, but he died just as his term of service with the Corporation ended. A second supplementary catalogue on the dictionary plan has been printed. So few have availed themselves of the books from Mudie's that the committee have decided to discontinue the subscription. New and larger buildings urgently needed.

HANDSWORTH : Librarian, J. W. ROBERTS. — The extensions sanctioned last year have not yet been completed. Issues in the reference department have decreased, owing to the constant noise that has been going on for the last six months in connection with the alterations and extension of the library. Issues in the lending department have increased.

LEICESTER : Librarian, CHAS. VERNON KIRKBY.—Alderman G. Stevenson, J.P., chairman for twenty years, resigned. Central library opened on Sundays from 6 to 9 p.m. since January 25th, 1891; average issue, fifty-two volumes. To the class of "Voyages and Travels" a considerable addition has been made to enable it to compete with fiction. Purchase of novels in three volumes has been abandoned. The extension of the borough will demand fresh exertions. Possibly something may be done in conjunction with the board schools.

PLYMOUTH : Librarian, W. H. K. WRIGHT.—The school libraries have given satisfaction, but the scheme for establishing evening reading-rooms in Board Schools has not resulted in any practical step. It is hoped that the council will grant a site for new buildings in Tavistock Road.

PUTNEY : Librarian, C. F. TWENEY.—The attention of the commissioners having been directed during the past year to the question of the liability of the library to pay local rates, they obtained counsel's opinion; and, after a full consideration of the subject, decided not to take further action at present. A supplementary catalogue issued. It is hoped to erect a reading-room at the back of the present library premises.

ROCHDALE : Librarian, GEORGE HANSON.—25,165 volumes issued on fifty-one Sundays. Catalogue of reference library issued. It is estimated that at least 202,696 visits have been made to the rooms during the year.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT : Librarian, ALFRED J. CADDIE.—The committee have not been able to purchase any new books during the past year, as it is their desire to clear off the building debt of £700, towards which they have the sum of £345 in hand. The "trip" realized £39 14s. Regret expressed at the death of Mr. A. Reynolds, one of the oldest friends and supporters of the institution. Supplementary catalogue issued.

TONBRIDGE : Librarian, GEORGE PRESSNELL.—The committee delayed issuing their report with the object of making it run with the financial year of the Local Board. Great inconvenience is still occasioned by the congested state of the building. A new book fund is established, and the Skinners' Company have given £5 5s.

TYNEMOUTH : Librarian, GEORGE TIDEY.—The library has now reached its majority. Falling off in issues at the branch library, in consequence of most of the adult readers preferring to come to the central library. Books have to be placed on the shelves in double rows, thereby causing extra labour and inconvenience. Three members of the committee died during the year, and only three of the old members now remain on the committee.

WEDNESBURY : Librarian, THOMAS STANLEY.—More space required for storage of books, and the reading-room is frequently overcrowded. The reference department contains some valuable books suitable to the pursuits of the district.

WIDNES : Librarian, MISS A. J. PROCTOR.—Regret expressed at the death of the late clerk to the Local Board. Seventy-five worn-out volumes replaced by new copies, in Chivers's "Duro-flexile" binding.

LIBRARIES NOT UNDER THE ACTS.

GLASGOW.—Report of Ballie's Institution Free Library, 1890-91, pp. 16. E. A. Holme Kay, Librarian. Present stock numbers 9,609 volumes. 78,864 volumes issued, fiction forming only 6 per cent. Additional shelving has been erected in a portion partitioned off the Ladies' Room.

GLASGOW.—Report for the Hundredth Year of Stirling's and Glasgow Public Library (1890-91), pp. 20. William Hutton, Librarian. In Reference Department 116,984 volumes were issued; in Lending Department, 106,773 volumes. Total number of members, 865. The debt, which amounted to £1,967 in 1889, is now only £500. The report contains interesting speeches by Sir Michael Connal and others at the annual meeting.

COLONIAL.

CANADA, TORONTO: Librarian, JAMES BAIN, JUN.—"Two important library events mark the year—the abolition of the Customs duty upon two copies of all books imported for the use of Free Libraries, and the visit of the chief librarian to England to purchase books." The Committee consider the latter such a wise and profitable step as to advise the sending of the librarian to England every three or four years to purchase books. More room required in the Circulating Library. "In the lurid light of the recent conflagration at Toronto University it will surely be the duty of this board to continually urge the necessity of securing a fire-proof building to shelter and protect their present collection of valuable books and documents, many of them incapable of being duplicated at any cost." Two supplemental catalogues issued. The titles of some of the French works mentioned on pp. 5 and 6 are incorrectly spelt.

NEW SOUTH WALES: SYDNEY.—Free Public Library, 19th Annual Report from Trustees for 1889-90, presented to Parliament by command, pp. 13, folio. Principal Librarian and Secretary, Robert Cooper Walker.

New reading-room will afford comfortable sitting-room for about 160 readers. Ladies' reading-room will accommodate from fifteen to twenty. Trustees "hold themselves bound to reiterate the opinion that the present edifice is but a very unsatisfactory makeshift for the accommodation of the national library." They plead very hard for a building suitable for all the requirements of a library. The greater part of the books have had to be removed and rearranged three times in three years, and at the same time the existing reading-room was kept open. In the reference department are 58,094 vols., in the lending branch 19,546 vols., and "for country libraries" 3,991 vols., making a total of 81,631 vols. 78,712 visits were made to the reference library, and 54,271 visits to the lending branch, making a total of 132,983 visits—a number less than has been recorded for many years past. On the fifty-two Sundays, 3,466 visits to the reference library and 2,307 visits to the lending branch. The loans of boxes, containing lots of about sixty vols., to country libraries have been greater than in any previous year. Ninety-five boxes have been borrowed, and these have travelled 36,905 miles to reach the various districts. A list of books missing from the lending branch (1885-89) is given, with the borrowers' names and addresses. No financial statement appended.

AFRICA.—Kimberley Public Library Eighth Annual Report, 1889-90, pp. 4, folio. The librarian's name is not given. The subscriptions of 369 subscribers amounted to £1,145. There are 11,453 volumes in the library, and an issue of 18,487. The wave of commercial depression which has passed over South Africa had its effect on the library. The De Beers Consolidated Mines Company take out a number of volumes for the benefit of their employes at Kenilworth on special terms. A company has offered to provide electric lighting for the whole of the library at a cost not exceeding that of lighting by paraffin lamps. The committee have had under consideration the question of initiating a union of Public Libraries in South Africa. The Colonial Government have supplemented their annual ordinary grant of £300 by an additional grant of £300, for the purchase of standard books of reference. It is hoped that the Borough Council will increase their annual grant from £200 to £300.

UNITED STATES.

BROOKLINE.—Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the Trustees of the Public Library of the town of Brookline, Massachusetts, for the year ending January 31st, 1891, pp. 50. Miss Mary A. Bean, Librarian. Increase in the circulation of 9,362 over last year, the number being 66,274. New card catalogue ready for use. "Decided improvement" the opening of the Children's Reading Room in the basement. A "suggestion book" has been placed at the end of the delivery desk. Library Committee meet weekly, and have power to purchase each week a limited number of new books. Publication of monthly bulletins suspended. Income, 8,595 dollars. "There have been no spare moments with librarian or assistants during the year." The pupils of the schools often inconveniently crowd the reading-room to consult the reference book placed there. The general reader finds it well-nigh impossible to find accommodation of any sort, much less a quiet place.

GLOVERSVILLE.—Free Library. Tenth Annual Report of the Librarian, 1890, pp. 3. A. L. Peck, Librarian. 8,762 volumes form the library, 39,379 volumes have been issued for home use, and 2,785 volumes for temporary consultation. Classes have been formed in book-keeping, practical arithmetic, penmanship, and German. Only fifty-nine postal notices were required to remind borrowers of books ten days overdue.

SAINT LOUIS.—Mercantile Library Association. Forty-fifth Annual Report, 1890, pp. 45. Horace Kephart, Librarian. During the past year many arrears incidental to a new building have been cleared off. An unexpected burning out of dynamos, from grounding and other causes, necessitated a thorough overhauling of the electrical fittings, and involved a large outlay of money. A bronze bust of the late librarian, John N. Dyer, has been presented and placed in the vestibule. "It is absolutely essential that the technical knowledge of the educated librarian shall co-operate with skilful financiering to produce results that will satisfy the patrons of the Mercantile Library, and enable it to maintain its ground."

SALEM, MASS.—Second Report of the Salem Public Library, 1890, pp. 20. Gardner M. Jones, Librarian. A quiet and prosperous year, with no special occurrences to mark its progress, leaves little to be said. 141,237 volumes were issued, of which fiction forms 90 per cent.

In Reference Library are 1,282 volumes, all of which are accessible to the public. 5,800 volumes have been added at the cost of 6,746 dollars. The Sunday use has been very satisfactory to the trustees. The purpose of the library, to render all assistance possible to the public schools, has been kept constantly in view.

CONSTITUTION GRANTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF SOUTHAMPTON TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

1. The Council hereby resolve that the general management, regulation, and sole control of the Public Libraries Act, 1855, and the Acts amending the same in the Borough of Southampton, according to Section 21 of the Public Libraries Act, 1855, shall from time to time, during the pleasure of the Council, vest in and be exclusively exercised by the Free Libraries Committee of the Corporation.

2. That the Council do yearly, at the usual time of appointing the General Committees of the Council, appoint the Free Libraries Committee. (a)

3. That the existing Committee, as well as any Committee to be hereafter appointed, shall be subject to such terms, stipulations, limitations and conditions, as the Council shall from time to time deem necessary.

4. That the bye-laws and ordinances of the Corporation shall apply to and be made subject to the acts and proceedings of the Committee.

5. That all salaried officers (b) and servants be subject to the laws relating to Municipal Corporations.

6. That the Committee have power to admit the local Press to all meetings.

7. That the Committee do appoint such Sub-Committee as they may consider expedient, but the acts of every such Committee shall be submitted to the General Committee for approval.

8. That five do form a quorum of the Committee, and three of every sub-Committee.

9. That notice of every meeting be issued by the authorized officer, and shall state the business to be transacted thereat.

10. That the Committee be empowered to appoint a deputy Chairman at the first meeting after its annual election, and at such other times as they may find necessary. (c)

11. That the accounts of the receipts and expenditure be audited by the Corporation auditors, and printed with the general accounts of the Corporation.

12. That the Corporation Treasurer for the time being be the Treasurer of the Committee.

13. That the Committee do prepare a yearly Report of their proceedings to the end of August in every year for the previous twelve months, and print the same and send a copy to each member of the Council and to the Town Clerk. Every such report shall be submitted to and considered by the Council.

14. That these Regulations be subject to such alterations, variations, additions or amendments as the Council may from time to time deem necessary.

15. That all cheques be signed by three members of the Committee, and countersigned by the Secretary and Librarian, and be made upon the Treasurer.

(a) The Committee consists of seventeen members, ten of which are Town Councillors, and seven are not. If any vacancy occurs, it is filled up by the Council on the recommendation of the Committee.

(b) Officers are appointed by the Committee, and all salaries and wages fixed by them.

(c) The Mayor is *chairman* of every Committee of the Council of Southampton; the Committee therefore elect a deputy.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be promptly forwarded.

DUBLIN: THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND.—In the annual report on the new library¹ erected by the Government in Dublin, the librarian, Mr. William Archer, says:

"I may, I trust, be forgiven if I take this opportunity to place on record my great personal satisfaction that at last the National Library of Ireland finds itself in this fine building, adequate for its housing for many a year to come, and eminently fitted for its purpose as regards economy of storage-space, convenience of approach to the books, shortening of distances, mitigation of physical exertion (including abolition of the use of ladders), and ultimate saving of time. That satisfaction is naturally enhanced by the reflection that I myself may claim a fair share of the credit of those structural changes from ancient custom—changes which I had from time to time, for ten years or more, urgently advocated both in print and by correspondence with Governmental authorities, men of public eminence, as well as home and English architects, with quite a number of whom, as intending competitors, I afterwards personally discussed the whole question—efforts which, I rejoice to know, were at last not without their influence. The prominent and essential feature of those changes consists in the separation, in a large and commodious reading-room, of the readers from the books, and the placing of these in lateral wings hard by, on presses standing across the floors and only three feet asunder, and of such a height only as to be within reach of the arm and of the eye without the use of ladders, approach being given to them, tier over tier, by straight fixed stairs.

"I would here express my thanks to our architects, Sir Thomas N. Deane and Son, not only for the readiness with which they at all times, when practicable, fell in with my suggestions, but also for the courtesy extended to me from the earliest beginning onwards, and the trouble taken by them in entering into minor details in their adverse as well as favourable points of view."

EDINBURGH.—The *Publishers' Circular* has begun a series of articles entitled "Representative Librarians," and the issue of August 1 contains a portrait and an account of the career of Mr. Hew Morrison, of the Edinburgh Public Library.

GOLSPIE.—Mr. Carnegie having offered to assist the inhabitants of Golspie in their efforts to establish a public library, a meeting was recently held, at which resolutions in favour of the proposal were unanimously adopted, and a committee appointed to collect local funds and to report to a future meeting.

KIRKWALL.—The Kirkwall Free Library was formally opened on July 31.

LONDON : HACKNEY.—The poll of the parish of St. John, at Hackney, has resulted in the rejection of the Public Libraries Acts by 7,076 votes to 5,703—adverse majority, 1,373. At the previous poll, taken thirteen years ago, the Acts were rejected by 4,389 to 631.

LONDON : LAMBETH.—Mr. J. Rolls Hoare, with one of the partners in the firm of Messrs. Nobles and Hoare, has offered a contribution of £1,000 towards the funds of the North Lambeth Free Library, on the condition that a room or rooms for the perusal of periodicals and newspapers be provided on Sundays. The library commissioners have accepted the offer.

LONDON : LEWISHAM.—On July 27 the Perry Hill branch of the Lewisham Free Public Libraries was opened to the public. At present only the daily and other newspapers and the magazines will be available, but the commissioners hope shortly to open the lending and reference libraries. This is the first of the libraries to be opened since the parish adopted the Acts.

LONDON : LEWISHAM.—Owing to the large area of the parish, it has been found necessary to establish a central and several branch libraries. The halfpenny rate to which the commissioners are limited, together with the subscriptions of the public, are, however, inadequate for this purpose, and the Board of Guardians have decided to petition the Local Government Board for permission to sell £1,884 of stock, which otherwise would be paid out in small sums of £42 during twenty-two years. The amount will just cover the necessary expenses.

LONDON : STOKE NEWINGTON.—On August 27, a Local Government Board inquiry was held at the vestry offices by Mr. Thornhill Harrison, and evidence of ratepayers was taken with respect to the application of the recently-appointed Public Library Commissioners for a loan of £4,000, with which to purchase a site and erect thereon a free public library for the parish. There was no opposition to the proposed loan.

LONDON : STREATHAM.—Although the new public library was opened so recently as April last, the advantages it offers have been enjoyed to a remarkable extent. The report of the librarian to July shows that more than 23,000 loans of books have been made for home reading in three months. Under the head of "prose fiction" the figures are 14,278. Of history and biography, there were 1,769 books read, and of arts and sciences 1,365. A notable feature in the returns is that no fewer than 3,167 volumes of works for young folk were issued. Only one volume of all those lent since the Tate library threw open its doors has been lost, and that has been paid for. The whole stock of books in the library amounts to 6,077 volumes, a number not only quite inadequate to the requirements of the inhabitants, now enumerated at nearly 50,000, but obviously unworthy of the handsome and capacious building which Streatham owes to the munificence of Mr. Tate.

LONDON : WHITECHAPEL.—The Lord Mayor (Sir Joseph Savory), accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, went in state on July 27 to the East End, to lay the memorial stone of the new Free Public Library and Museum in the Whitechapel Road. The site of the new buildings is nearly facing Whitechapel Church, in the High Street. The ceremony took place under a marquee, in which there was assembled a large number of invited persons. The band of the 2nd Tower Hamlets Volunteers played a selection of music. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, with

the Sheriffs, were received by Mr. Thomas Catmur, the chairman of the library commissioners, Mr. Samuel Montagu, M.P., Mr. F. D. Mocatta, and the members of the committee. The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Bishop of Bedford. Mr. T. Catmur made a statement with reference to the circumstances connected with the library. The first cost, he said, would probably not be far off £12,000. Towards that amount they had received in donations £5,000, and about £3,000 from rates. A further sum of about £4,000 was still required if the institution was to be opened free from debt. This was very desirable, because the penny rate would all be needed for maintenance. The architect, Mr. J. Hennings, then handed a silver trowel to his lordship, who declared the stone "well and truly laid." Mr. S. Montagu, M.P., in moving a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor for attending, observed that in the matter of free public libraries the West End was very much behind the East End, for Paddington had declined to vote a halfpenny rate to provide a library, whereas Whitechapel had very readily voted a penny rate.

NEWARK.—Sir William Gilstrap, Bart., who some time ago built, furnished, and endowed a free library at Newark, has just sent £1,000 to the corporation of that town, to be utilized in providing for the increase of the work and the librarian's salary in its development.

PETERHEAD.—Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carnegie, of New York, visited Peterhead on Saturday, August 8, for the purpose of laying the foundation-stone of the public library. Mr. Carnegie gave £1,000 towards the funds of the library. A great demonstration was held in their honour, and was attended by 8,000 to 10,000 people. Mrs. Carnegie laid the stone, and Mr. Carnegie, replying to a vote of thanks accorded to his wife, said the English and American flags prominently displayed before him were being carried side by side peacefully in the Behring Sea, and the time would shortly come to pass when the two branches of the English-speaking race would stand shoulder to shoulder and hold in their hands the peace of the world. Mr. Carnegie afterwards addressed a mass meeting from the balcony of the Royal Hotel, and in the afternoon gave an address to a crowded audience in the music-hall on non-political and educational affairs.

RICHMOND : SURREY.—Mr. Albert A. Barkas, a senior assistant in the Birmingham Free Libraries, has been appointed librarian of the Richmond Free Public Library, in the room of Mr. Frank Pacy, now chief librarian of St. George, Hanover Square.

SALISBURY.—The adoption of the Public Libraries Acts by this city has, as was anticipated, been attended with great benefit to the inhabitants. The promoters experienced many difficulties in carrying to a successful issue their project; but perseverance has had its reward, and the city now possesses an institution which is daily increasing in popularity. The reading-room, a spacious apartment with sitting accommodation for seventy-two persons, is well supplied with newspapers and periodicals, and is frequented in the evening by both male and female readers. It is lighted by Sugg's patent lamps, and is cheerful and attractive. The lending library is fairly well supplied with books, but there is ample accommodation on the shelves for more gifts. Valuable donations of books have been made by the Bishop of Salisbury, the Dean of Salisbury, Mr. E. H. Hulse, M.P., Mr. F. Griffin, J.P., the trustees of the British Museum, and many others. It is a matter of regret that there are only 1,080 volumes in the library to supply the 600 borrowers already registered on the books. With the approach of winter there is every probability of a large increase

in the number of readers, and it is earnestly hoped that, by gifts and otherwise, the supply will keep pace with the demand.

WOOD GREEN.—A poll of this district was taken during the month of June, with the result that the Public Libraries Acts were adopted by a majority of two to one—for the full penny rate. The number of voting papers delivered was 2,410, and of these there were returned, marked "yes" or "no," 1,454. Blank voting papers to the number of 826 were also returned. Nearly 200 papers were returned either not signed or improperly signed. The requisition was headed by the Vicar and signed by twenty-five of the leading inhabitants, including, curiously enough, the principal publicans. Mr. Mawer initiated the movement, and pushed it to its successful termination. The local authority showed no disposition to favour the proposal, although the chairman (R. D. M. Littler, Esq., C.B., Q.C.) was known to be sympathetic, inasmuch as twelve months previously he had promised certain contributions in money towards a public library for Wood Green, when the proper time had arrived. The only organized opposition to the proposal arose in a Liberal Club, members of which convened a meeting of the ratepayers, at which a motion adverse to the establishment of the library was proposed. Mr. Mawer, however, appeared upon the scene, and, after an earnest speech in favour of free libraries, induced the meeting to adopt an amendment to the motion. The conveners of the meeting put up Mr. Frederic Millar, of the Liberty and Property Defence League, Westminster, and the author of some twenty "Reasons" why the Public Libraries Acts should *not* be adopted, to support the motion. His speech probably did as much as anything towards the success of the library movement in Wood Green! This success is noteworthy from the fact that only one public speech was made in favour of the proposal, and the only expense incurred was for the printing of ten thousand octavo handbills.



Record of Bibliography.

De la Reliure, Exemples à imiter ou à rejeter. Par Henri Bouchot, du Cabinet des Estampes. L'art du siècle—De l'habillement du livre, ses qualités et sa décoration. Paris: *Bibliothèque des Connaissances utiles aux Amis des Livres*, E. Rouveyre, 1891, 8vo., pp. 92 (with fourteen plates). Price 7 fr. 50 c.

We have again to record the appearance of one of the rather superficial little books which M. Bouchot has been producing of late at the rate of about four a year. Like its predecessors, it is mainly remarkable for a certain good sense which usually enlists the author's sympathies on the right side, even when his practical suggestions are of no great value. M. Bouchot has lately discovered that modern French bindings—the remark is equally true of those of other nations—are sadly and slavishly imitative of the work of the artists of the past, and he rightly insists that every century should have its own characteristic work, and that to clothe novels of Daudet or Zola in bindings of the style of Grolier or Tory is purely absurd. So far this court is with him, and we are heartily in accord also when he goes on to denounce some of the fragile substitutes for leather which have lately found favour in France. Instead of protecting a book, these themselves require protection in a case, and there is no reason why the first case should not be protected by a second, and the second by a third, like a Chinese nest of boxes. All this is good enough, but when M. Bouchot goes on to regard the invention of ornaments especially appropriate to the particular book as the discovery of French binders which is to bring about a new era, our enthusiasm begins to cool. For, in the first place, this is no new discovery, but only the application to leather of a method of decoration which has long been in use in England for cloth. Moreover, this method, so suitable to cloth, appears to us to fail when applied to the finer material. For the beauty of the best binding is surely only to be obtained by tool-work, and these ornaments appropriate to the particular book must almost of necessity be cut and stamped—a process admirably suited to the decoration of an edition of a thousand copies, but quite destructive of all that makes binding interesting. Many of the illustrations of backs and covers which M. Bouchot offers for our admiration appear to us simply ugly or fantastic, and even the best—the Japanese-like design for an edition of Hugo's *Notre-Dame de Paris*, or the designs for some books on Fencing and the Duel—only present the appearance of fairly good English cloth bindings. Not along this road, as it seems to us, lies salvation, and yet the excellence of the rules with which M. Bouchot ends his little book again disarms our hostility. We quote them nearly in full:

"D'une manière générale, la reliure doit s'inspirer du livre et non s'imposer à lui.

"Elle se règle sur les qualités intrinsèques de l'ouvrage, tour à tour sévère, légère ou simple, suivant que le texte lui en prescrit l'ordre, ou lui en abandonne la facilité.

"Elle ne peut, quoi qu'il arrive, s'affubler d'ornements opposés par nature à sa destination spéciale. Elle est une garde plus ou moins riche, mais jamais un joyau par elle-même.

"Sur le fait de travaux purement contemporains, elle ne doit pas copier les besognes antérieures, à peine de perdre toute originalité et de ne compter plus.

"Le véritable amateur impose ses idées au relieur et ne consent pas à acheter de lui une confection banale. Toute reliure est condamnable :

1^o si elle sacrifie l'ouvrage à ses fantaisies et à ses caprices ; 2^o si elle n'est pas de durée, par l'emploi de matières factices ou impropres à son service de garde ; 3^o si sa décoration n'est pas graphiquement homogène, et que l'échelle d'un ornement ne soit pas la même pour tous les autres ; 4^o si elle n'est pas construite et poussée à la main, mais frappée au balancier.

"Elle est critiquable : 1^o si elle n'a pas, une fois fermée, la courbe en pince d'écrevisse qui abrite l'œuvre intérieure ; 2^o si, faute de bonne couture, elle s'ouvre mal à toute réquisition ; 3^o si, par défaut de séchage, elle 'godde' et tend à se recroqueviller."

Admirable rules, but they only tell us what to avoid. Who will show us any good ?

A Catalogue of a portion of the Library of Charles Isaac Elton and Mary Augusta Elton. *London* : Quaritch, 1891, 8vo, pp. 222. (With 28 photographs of bindings.)

This catalogue of a portion of the library of Mr. and Mrs. Elton, of Whitestaunton, forms a handsome volume, well printed on good paper, and as regards its exterior bearing a general resemblance to the catalogue of the "Rowfant Books" owned by Mr. Locker-Lampson. The contents, however, of the two volumes are very different. Mr. Locker's collection is probably the most homogeneous ever formed, being almost entirely confined to first editions of English works of imaginative literature. Mr. Elton's books, on the other hand, are not properly a "collection" at all, but a "portion" of just such a library as the author of the *Origins of English History*, the descendant (we presume) of the translator of Hesiod, and a member of the Committee of the recent Exhibition of Bindings, might be expected to form. Early editions of the Classics are jostled by old French Customals, illustrating the usages of "Junior Right," the services which may be exacted from bondmen and the like ; and these again by pretty little French and Italian books of which the interest is not always apparent until we reach the description of the binding, and note the illustration on the opposite page. Mr. Elton has enriched the catalogue of these evidences of his many-sided interests by occasional notes, sometimes bibliographical, more often giving some information about the collectors through whose hands a book has passed, or briefly commenting on its contents. A prettily bound Almanack for 1786 is noted as containing on a fly-leaf an amusing list of its owner's furniture, viz., "Bedstead, copying Box, Coulour box, 2 Ban-boxes, Spice-box, Umbrellas, Scrap books, Prayer Book," a collection which (save for the bedstead) might almost have been owned by the clerical gentleman who did not like London. A book entitled *America and the Americans* (attributed to James Boardman) is said to have been written to combat a libellous description of the United States as a land "where, if a man devises the stealing of a pair of breeches, he must first slay and strip the wearer, inasmuch as no man from the President downwards has a second pair"! From an early copy (1491) of *Boethius*, there is quoted a manuscript version of the famous song : *Meum est propositum in tabernâ mori*, differing in many respects from the copy printed by the Camden Society. Later on we have fragments from a charming little French song, which may possibly have been written by Mary Queen of Scots. In his notes to the newspapers, Mr. Elton reminds us that he is a Member of Parliament, by citing from his copy of the *Mercurius Pragmaticus* for June 12, 1649, the complaint :

"They have altered the very *Mace* belonging to the House of Commons, and framed one without *crosses* ; the old *Badges* of

Christianity not suiting with their new *Turkish* empire; instead whereof they have put *Oaken* leaves, which (since Absalom was hang'd upon the tree) may serve very well as the proper emblem of Rebellion."

To illustrate a commentary on the Colossians "by Edward Elton, Minister of God's Word at St. Mary Magdalen's, Bermondsey" (1620), Mr. Elton quotes from a Harleian manuscript, a royal order for the burning of another of his ancestor's books, in which among other "foule & grosse errors" he had averred "that no man of this country may weare the apparell of any other nation whatsoever," a pronouncement of which those who remember the cosmopolitan eclecticism of the Stuart dandies will easily realize the disturbing character. With notes such as these the catalogue is relieved from monotony, while the abundant illustrations of bindings lend to it an additional attraction. These exhibit the armorial bearings of well-known collectors like De Thou, Count d'Hoym, J. B. Colbert and Madame de Pompadour; some beautiful examples of Italian and French painted bindings (notably a Boccaccio, a Justinian, and a Terence), some pretty English seventeenth century work, and a nice little *Derôme*. More important, perhaps, than these are some fine examples of Italian tooling. One of these, a copy of the *Aureo Libro di Marco Aurelio* (1560), was bound in red morocco, with arabesques, fleurs-de-lys, and interlaced branches in gold, for a certain Eurialo Silvestri, by whom it was presented to Jean Grolier. A *Martyrologium* of 1568, in olive morocco, with the arms of the Ruizi family, has a very similar border, but gains a more massive appearance from the inner compartment being almost entirely covered. A *Pontanus*, of 1509, in black morocco, is an almost perfect example of the lighter Venetian work of the early part of the century. All these bindings are excellently reproduced, the grain of the leather being clearly shown in every case. A number of tailpieces taken from the devices of early printers, and some good reproductions of old headpieces add still further to the attraction of this handsome volume. We must not forget to mention a list of "a collection of small books," mostly measuring about two inches by three. These, we presume, are the special property of Mrs. Elton. A few manuscripts, mostly liturgical, may also be noted, the most important of them, a beautiful little *Hora*, written in France at the end of the fourteenth century, and once the property of Jeanne II., Queen of Naples (1370-1435), being probably the gem of Mr. Elton's library.

Bibliotheca Polytechnica. Directory of Technical Literature. A Classified Catalogue of all Books, Annuals and Journals published in England, America, France, and Germany, including their relations to legislation, hygiene, and daily life. Edited by Fritz von Szczeparski. First Annual Issue 1889. Crown 8vo. *London*: S. Low and Co. 2s.

The scheme adopted by the compilers of this catalogue, although not a novelty, is undoubtedly the best that could be used for such a list. The catch-words are given in three languages, English, French, and German, so that readers of every nationality can at once turn to the particular branch in which he desires to see the latest literature. An exhaustive enumeration of the technical journals in the three great languages of the world is also given. In addition to the short title, the place, publisher's name, and price, are also stated.

New Catalogues.

Hand-List of the Birkenhead Free Public Library. No. 5. January, 1891. 8vo., pp. 12.

Consists of three parts, viz. : I. Additions to Lending Library during 1890; II. Additions to Books for the Young; III. Special List of Music and Musical Literature. The first part is arranged by classes, the most important word in each title printed in a clarendon letter. It is worthy of note that less than one page and a half is required to catalogue prose fiction, while the other classes occupy eight pages.

Croydon Free Public Libraries. Catalogue of the Books in the South Norwood Library. Compiled by Robert C. Chapman, Chief Librarian. 8vo. *Croydon*, 1890. Pp. 97.

A dictionary catalogue, double columns, with the principal collected works well set out. But why are all dates of publication printed within brackets? The cross references are not always helpful. Often we are referred to another part of the catalogue, but on turning to it we find exactly the same amount of information as followed the word *see* at the place we have just left.

Borough of Nottingham. Free Public Libraries. List of Books in the Reference Library. No. 14, Nottinghamshire Collection. 8vo. *Nottingham*, 1890. Pp. 95.

It has frequently fallen to our lot to notice the excellent class lists issued by Mr. J. Potter Briscoe from time to time, and in the present instance we cannot too highly commend the industry and energy displayed. The collection is divided into General, Poll-books, Directories and Annuals, Robin Hood Collection, Corporation Reports, Byron Collection and Kirke White Collection. Each section is very properly arranged chronologically, and a name index to the whole completes the work.

Second Supplement to the Finding-List of the Salem Public Library, Salem, Mass. October, 1890. 8vo. *Salem, Mass.*, 1890. Pp. viii., 111.

The trustees continue in the present supplement the excellent method adopted by them to give readers the earliest possible access to the contents of the library. The plan was described by us in a former number. This supplement deals with additions from November, 1889, to September, 1890.

Annual Supplement to the Catalogue of the General Assembly Library. January, 1891. 8vo. *Wellington*, 1891. Pp. 4, 30, x., 8.

This classified list of the additions to the Library of the Parliament of New Zealand includes accessions from May 1 to December 31, 1890. The titles are printed at moderate length, with bibliographical details. Followed by an author-index, title-a-line, with reference to page of classed catalogue, and addenda of books received January 1-17, 1891.

U. Hoepli. Bibliotheca Historica Italica. Catalogo, N. 68. 8vo. Milano, 1891. Pp. 380.

A most valuable bookseller's catalogue of 7,101 entries. The first part consists of works on the general history of Italy, the second of works relating to the various places or provinces. The titles are brief, but accurate.

Library Association Record.

The members of the Library Association will receive with this number three important publications :

1. The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Association's Examination Scheme.
2. Report on Library Appliances prepared, by request of the Council, by Mr. J. D. Brown.

These reports with others, which we hope will be ready in time, will be discussed at Nottingham.

3. THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION YEAR-BOOK.—This publication contains all the official papers of the Association, along with other information likely to be useful to members and the public. The credit of the idea is due to Mr. E. C. Thomas, whose prolonged illness we deeply deplore. At the Glasgow meeting Mr. Thomas circulated some proof copies under the title of the 'L.A.U.K. Handbook.' The first issue of such a compilation must contain many errors, and correctness can only be attained by the co-operation of members. We trust this will not be wanting.

Correspondence.

RATING OF LIBRARIES.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY.

St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster, Free Public Libraries,
23, Great Smith Street, S.W.

SIR,—At a meeting of the commissioners of these libraries held on the 20th instant, I was directed to call the attention of other similar bodies to the promise made by Lord Cranbrook, on behalf of the Government, upon the second reading of the Free Education Bill in the House of Lords on the 16th instant, to bring in a bill next year to exempt elementary school buildings from rating.

Public libraries are to a great extent "continuation schools," and likely to become still more necessary and useful in that direction in the future than they have been in the past; and public libraries are also greatly hampered for funds, owing to the strict limitation of the rates for their support. The commissioners of these libraries suggest that common action be taken to bring to the notice of the Government the claims of library buildings to exemption from the payment of rates and taxes, with a view to such buildings being brought within the scope of the proposed bill, more particularly as libraries are either under the control of municipal bodies or of parochial authorities.

It is of course of the highest importance that the adhesion of parliamentary representatives to this suggestion be obtained.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY E. POOLE, *Secretary.*

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY.

78, Hunsdon Road,
New Cross, S.E.

SIR,—I shall be glad if, through the medium of THE LIBRARY, I can discover the names of the authors of the two following works: *The Camp of Refuge*, 1844, and *The Poor Artist*, 1850.

Yours faithfully,
A. MYNOTT.

A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION.

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR,—The committees of our Public Libraries are recognising the need of extending the usefulness of these institutions by free lectures. Here in Norwich the experiment has been tried with most encouraging success. We have discovered that to make a lecture generally interesting and entertaining to the public it should be illustrated. Would it not be practicable for the committees of our public libraries, acting through the Library Associations, to agree among themselves to be at the expense of slides illustrating a number of subjects—these slides to form a sort of circulating library, to be loaned at a reduced rate to members of the association, and at a higher rate to non-members? The council of the association might receive and consider suggestions, and on their coming to a definite conclusion as to the subjects which might be most serviceable from an educational point of view, the committees of the various libraries could subscribe the necessary funds for preparing the slides.

Yours, etc.,

HENRY F. EWERN,
Member of the Norwich Free Libraries Committee.



STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORTS.

NOTE: Under "Year ending," the first figure refers to the month, the second to the year: e.g., "3-90" = March, 1890. When no figure appears under a heading it means that the required information cannot be obtained from the report.

Name.	No. of Rept.	Year Ending.	No. of Pages.	No. of Branches.	Number of Volumes in Stock.				Volumes Issued.				Fiction Issued. Lending Library.	No. of Borrowers.	Product of Rate.	Total Income.
					Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Branches	Grand Total of Vols.	Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Branches	Grand Total of Vols.				
Aston...	13	3-91	16	1a	5,147	7,801	...	12,948	18,485	67,692	...	86,177	p.c.	2,589	£ 586	£ 654
Battersea	4	5-91	29	2	7,521	11,080	...	28,740	17,971	192,766	71,426	282,163	57	13,367	2,704	3,042
Chelsea	(?)	5-91	28	1	...	...	5,170	18,484	15,951	32,272	68,839	123,328b	81	4,833	2,798	3,090
Chester	13	3-91	14	...	...	...	...	14,037	1,823	49,863	...	51,686	90	1,786	691	722
Darwen	1d	3-91	17	...	...	...	...	13,516	...	...	...	39,078	75	415*	410	436
Handsworth	11	3-91	26	1b	1,394	9,730	...	11,124	2,687	58,683	...	61,370	68	1,786	485	572
Leicester	20	4-91	26	2	11,066	16,733	8,860	36,659g	33,447	153,217	105,056	291,720	61	8,500	1,700	1,948
Plymouth	14	3-91	34	...	8,040	18,371	4,320h	30,731	32,133	194,502	5,217h	231,852	33	1,980*	1,000	1,068
Putney	3	4-91	12	...	1,275	4,038	...	5,313	837	51,654	...	52,491	73	1,671	558	737
Rochdale	20	3-91	19	...	12,588i	30,406	...	42,994	96,909i	139,837	...	236,746	83	704*	984	1,043
Stoke-on-Trent	12	3-91	23	...	1,593	7,468	...	9,061	4,548	35,476	...	40,024	83	2,947	320	468
Tonbridge	8	3-91m	12	...	...	...	...	6,126	...	...	...	26,226m	71	1,204	140n	156n
Tynemouth	21	12-90	12	2q	4,258	22,725	(?)	26,983	9,236	119,738	958	129,032	32	4,091	600	646
Wednesbury	13	3-91	31	...	1,901	7,182	...	9,083	4,105	53,880	...	57,985	52	242*	311	322
Widnes	4	3-91	11	...	485	4,027	...	4,512	1,221	52,268	...	53,489	87 p	382*	404	436

* New Borrowers. a—Reading Room only. b—Including 6,266 Boys' Room. c—Including Juvenile. d—First Report of Committee. e—Including 376 from Mudie's Library. f—Reading-room only. g—On p. 12. Total stock, 35,945. h—Local collection. i—Including Boys' Library, 994 vols.; issue 39,311. m—Aug., 1889—March, 1891. n—March, 1890—March, 1891. p—Including Poetry. q—One a Reading-room only.

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Address delivered at the Opening of the Fourteenth
Annual Meeting of the Library Association,
Nottingham, September 16th, 1891, by the
President, ROBERT HARRISON, Esq.

A LITTLE more than fourteen years ago, on the 9th of April, 1877, some eight or ten librarians met in a room in the London Library, and formed an Organising Committee for carrying out the scheme of a conference put forward by Mr. Nicholson, then Librarian of the London Institution and now worthily filling the office of Bodley's Librarian at Oxford. To this gentleman's energy and ability was mainly due the success of the Conference, which was held at the London Institution on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th of October of the same year. Of the gentlemen composing the Organising Committee of the Conference all, with one exception, became members of the Association; but, alas! how many of them have disappeared from among us. Genial Mr. Campkin, of the Reform Club, was during his latest years disabled by illness; Mr. Solomon Hart, of the Royal Academy, died in the ripeness of old age; sturdy Mr. Overall, of the Corporation Library, who used to maintain his opinions with characteristic bluntness, succumbed to an illness that kept him from our meetings long before he finally sank; Mr. Roy, of the British Museum, took part in our proceedings for but a short time; Mr. Henry Stevens, who ranked among us at once as a born American and as a resident Englishman, continued with us till the time of his lamented death. Most of you will recall the delight and instruction we derived from his speeches at our monthly and annual meetings. Mr. Sullivan, of the Royal United Service Institution, is on the list of deceased members, and so are Mr. Nicholas Trübner, the well-known publisher, and Mr. Vaux, the eminent orientalist and librarian of the Royal Asiatic Society. Mr. B. R. Wheatley, of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, closes this mournful list, which shows what havoc time has made among those who were present at the birth of our Association. One name more I must mention—that of Mr. E. C. Thomas, who, though still

in the flesh, is, I fear, hopelessly ill. For years he laboured assiduously in our cause both as Secretary and as Editor of our journal. His quickness, his amiable manners, his pleasant wit, and his genuine devotion to the interests of the Association, endeared him to all our members. I am sure that you will grieve with me for his loss as for that of a valued friend.

Well, the Conference came off, as you all know, in October, 1877, and a very pleasant meeting it was. Librarians came from all parts of the world. Our American friends deserved and received a very cordial welcome. Professor Justin Winsor was with us then, and again last year at Reading in unabated freshness and vivacity. I had the pleasure of seeing him a few weeks ago, just before his return to Harvard from his recent holiday. Dr. Poole, of Chicago, gave his animating support to all our meetings, and I never shall forget the amusing effect on my own mind of his personification of the chair in front of which he stood when he said, "The chair thinks this and the chair believes that." The chair, indeed, proved itself to be a very sensible member of the Conference. Professor Melvil Dewey gave us much useful help at our Conference, and subsequently. It is with very great pleasure we all welcome him here to-day.

I hope you will not think it out of place if I pause here to speak of one who has just passed away, mourned by both hemispheres—Mr. Russell Lowell, the late American Minister. He was not a member of our Association, but showed by the works he published how greatly he would have adorned our ranks had he joined us. His works, *Among my Books* and *My Study Window*, are known and appreciated by you all. He once presided at the annual meeting of our Index Society. The charm of his address and the fulness of his information on literary matters are not to be described—they were simply fascinating. I trust that such instances as he gave by his presence on that occasion of the comity of nations will be repeated and multiplied until the Stars and Stripes stand on one common ground with the Union Jack, both bearing the motto, "Blood is thicker than water."

Pleasant recollections linger about the memories of other members of the Conference—of Monsieur Leopold Delisle, M. Depping, and the portly Baron Otto de Watteville, who accompanied them. Other representatives of foreign libraries were there, who with librarians from all parts of the United Kingdom

were eager to support any reasonable project that would tend to unite in one common bond the librarians of all countries.

It was in the presence of this pleasant company that in the evening of the 5th of October, 1877, I had the honour of proposing, "That a Library Association of the United Kingdom be founded." The resolution was seconded by Mr. Henry Stevens and carried unanimously.

The Conference then passed to the discussion of the Constitution proposed for the Association by the Organising Committee and printed in the programme of the proceedings. Each rule having been considered separately, and a few alterations having been introduced, the Constitution was adopted. From that time till now the progress of the Association has been steady, and its prosperity is now well assured. Of the thirteen Presidents who have honoured us with their presence at our Annual Meetings five are lost to us, namely, Mr. Winter Jones, Mr. H. O. Coxe, Mr. Bradshaw, Sir James Picton, and Sir Thomas Alderman Baker. The able and friendly assistance we received in turn from these gentlemen and from those Presidents who still happily survive cannot be too warmly acknowledged.

The objects for the attainment of which the Association was founded have been often stated and descanted upon. The one point upon which all, I think, of my thirteen predecessors have been agreed was not set down in our programme, and yet it has become a trite commonplace among us—I mean the opinion that the Association has been the means of raising the status of librarians and of creating a new profession. Let us continue to make every effort for the improvement and advancement of librarians. The practice of examining candidates and of granting certificates—which was set on foot by our Council a few years ago—has not hitherto borne much fruit.

The general character of our first examinations will in future be somewhat specialised to suit the requirements of Public Libraries, as will be seen in the report about to be presented. Without a doubt certificates given by our Association, as it grows larger and stronger—and already it represents every important library in the country—will in course of time acquire a positive value as a testimonial for any young aspirant to office. I call the special attention of our younger members to this branch of our work, and I even venture to invite our older members to enter the lists and undergo examinations, if only for the sake

of encouraging others. I am not in favour of a mere technical training for either young or old librarians. They must acquire some general culture, a breadth of view, and what has been aptly called a wide horizon to fit them for their calling. To a librarian knowledge is indeed power, to him it never comes amiss: for he is likely to be bombarded with questions of boundless variety every day of his official life. I once heard of an assistant who, on being pressed to get down from the shelves a memoir of Mirabeau, petulantly exclaimed, "Who is Mirabeau?" That man clearly had not read his Carlyle. I quite feel that this general culture must be attained *before* a librarian enters upon his duties. In a library of any considerable extent he will have little leisure for reading up literature *after* his appointment to a librarianship or sub-librarianship. The information he may gather while cataloguing his books will be all that he can hope to acquire—more he must not expect if he means to keep his library in order.

Referring to what I have said about the attainment of breadth of view I will repeat something told of the poet Coleridge. Hearing of the intention of a young solicitor to begin practice in a cathedral city, he advised him to take a house in the cloisters, so that the perpetual presence to his sight of a majestic and inspiring edifice might counteract the narrowing influence of the petty affairs of professional work. So let the librarian raise an edifice of literature, history, and poetry to keep constantly before him and to enlarge his views when his time has to be given to the technical duties of his office. Our professional work is with books, their safe custody, their preservation by binding, their distribution among readers and their return to the shelves. All this involves a great amount of labour and mental effort.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

With regard to Public Libraries, it is a significant fact, that during the twenty-seven years which elapsed between the passing of Mr. Ewart's Act in 1850 and the establishment of our Association in 1877, very little was done for the extension of Public Libraries as compared with the progress made in the fourteen years from 1877, to the present time. True that in the latter period the Queen's Jubilee year was very favourable to the establishment of Public Libraries. None the less do I think that credit is due

to the promoters of these institutions for taking advantage of the state of public feeling, and giving to loyalty a form and substance that will prove so useful to the community. The Association undoubtedly may claim a share of the honour of assisting in this great development of the Free Library movement—a movement which I am pleased to think was accelerated by the aid of two subscription libraries—the London Library and the London Institution.

THE LONDON LIBRARY.

Let me say a few words about the London Library, which has just completed its fiftieth year, and with which I have had the honour to be connected more than thirty-four years. In the course of half a century it has had upon its register the names of many famous men. The idea of it first sprang into the minds of three or four barristers, Mr. John Forster, Mr. Spedding, Mr. Flower Ellis and another, who met at the chambers of one of them in Lincoln's Inn Fields. The main purpose of the projectors was to form a collection of books of research which could be used by the subscribers at their own homes. Expensive books were bought and lent out, but in the course of a few years it was found that the subscribing scholars were but men, and that a little lighter literature would not be displeasing. Lighter literature was procured accordingly, and the popularity and prosperity of the Library increased greatly.

We have had four Presidents since 1841, the year of the Library's foundation—the late Lord Clarendon, Mr. Thomas Carlyle, Lord Houghton, and Lord Tennyson, who, happily, still lives and labours among us. Our Committees have included the most representative men of modern English literature. The most conspicuously original man among them was Carlyle. He often visited the Library. His conversation was most amusing, full of extravagant and exaggerated statements, and always ending with a loud laugh apparently at himself. He used the Library books extensively for his later works, and was guilty of the reprehensible practice of writing in the margins of our books. I must admit that his remarks were never meaningless, but chiefly consisted of corrections of dates or errors in the text. One remark of his, however, which is pretty well known, was a criticism. It occurs in Charles Dibdin's collection of songs, the last page of which contains the ordinary version of "Rule Britannia!" At the foot of this boastful song, Carlyle has written "Cock-a-doodle-doo," with a small forest of notes of exclamation after it. In a case like this the Librarian would

be a martinet indeed if he effaced from the book an expression so characteristic of the man of genius who wrote it.

You will, I hope, pardon me for thus dwelling a few moments on the name of Carlyle, if only for the sake of his pregnant saying so interesting to us all, "Why is there not a Majesty's Library in every county town? there is a Majesty's gaol and gallows in every one?" Of Thackeray, another eminent member of the London Library, I have an anecdote that you probably have heard before. When writing *The Virginians* he came to me for a life of General Wolfe. "I don't want," he said, "an historical account of his career—Lord Mahon's book gives me that; but I want something that will tell me the colour of his breeches!" I had the pleasure also of helping Charles Reade to find materials for his splendid story of *The Cloister and the Hearth*. The late Lord Lytton was a frequent visitor and inquirer, as was also the author of *Westward Ho!* and the great novelist known by the name of George Eliot. I was quite astonished at first to see what pains and research were applied to the production of books so easy to read as are our best novels. An illustrious living member of the London Library, Mr. Gladstone, has always taken an interest in our prosperity, and has often given us his valuable support at our meetings. He makes use chiefly of our works of reference. I remember with pleasure a small incident that occurred when *Juventus Mundi* was going to the press. Mr. Gladstone called to verify a line in Propertius or Ausonius—I forget which. He told his need to one of the masters of Eton, who happened to be present. The line was found and differed slightly from that which Mr. Gladstone had quoted; "but," said the Eton master to me afterwards, "his line was much finer than the one which we found in print." The share of the Librarian in aiding great writers in their researches is of course very limited, yet his need of literary culture is made manifest every day. I remember receiving a letter from a lady asking for the *Adventures of Purley*, if they were travels. She must have been greatly astonished at learning that Horne Tooke's work entitled, *The Diversions of Purley*, is a work on grammar and etymology. The Librarian is bound to know so much of every book under his charge as to be able to guide a reader to the borders at least of the field he wants to explore. A knowledge of foreign languages is a great help in this part of a Librarian's duty.

And now let me say a word about the remuneration which

shall reward the services of a man thus furnished. Forgive me if I refer back to a paper of my own, "On Salaries," which I read at our meeting in Oxford in 1878 (*Trans. of First Annual Meeting*, p. 93).

SALARIES OF LIBRARIANS.

I there presented a calculation based on the total amount of salaries from the only statement then published of the four largest and most important provincial libraries in the country, and by dividing the amounts equally among the staff of each library, and reckoning the number of acts performed every year at 1,002,000, I arrived at the conclusion that in—

Library No. 1 the payment for each transaction was 1·6 farthing.

"	No. 2	"	"	"	$\frac{3}{4}$	"
"	No. 3	"	"	"	1	"
"	No. 4	"	"	"	a fraction over the farthing.	

In a Parliamentary paper issued about that time, the highest salary mentioned individually was £150 a year, and the lowest £20. This is not as it should be. Let us hope that some improvement has taken place since 1878. If the Librarian is to be an educated man, the centre of light and information in a borough more or less benighted, he must be trained to his work. His training will take him away from the money-making activities of life, and his necessities should in fairness be provided for in his salary. His meat and drink, his nightly shelter, warming and clothing, together with that of his family, cannot in these days cost less than £250 a year, and that, in my opinion, should be the minimum amount of salary paid to a competent Librarian. Exceptional requirements and great responsibilities may justly entitle the accomplished Librarian to a higher remuneration, but £250 should be the lowest stipend offered to a duly qualified person in a Library of any extent or importance.

In connection with this subject, the physical and financial well-being of our members I venture to refer again to my paper read at Oxford, in which I urged on the attention of all the librarians and curators of the United Kingdom the duty of forming a fund, which after the accumulation of a few years might serve to minister to the wants of any among us who may fall into need, I proposed to call it:—

THE LIBRARIANS' AND CURATORS' FUND.

The two occupations are closely kindred, and though separately their total number is small, united they will make a considerable body. An annual subscription of one guinea ought to produce £300 or £400 a year, which if left intact for five years,

or, still better, for ten years, would make a fund that would prove very useful to persons in distress. I am not going to beg or to appeal to charity in any way—I simply insist upon what seems to me a duty. We are striving to raise our vocation into a profession that may be pursued with fair prospects of success by persons without private means. We have consolidated ourselves into a society that promises to hold together, and my opinion is that the bonds of union would be made firmer by the formation of an institution such as I propose. Other callings and professions have all made a provision of this kind for the less fortunate among their members, and why shall not librarians and curators do so too? Authors have the Literary Fund, players their Dramatic Fund, artists, lawyers, doctors, clergymen—all have something of the kind. No one can shut his eyes to the possibility of distress reaching the homes of some of our members, and the most prudent and independent course we can take is to prepare ourselves for such contingencies.

I have a scheme drawn out, with the details of which I shall not trouble the meeting now.

My proposal at Oxford was perhaps before its time, and surely long before the wide-spreading suggestions which would make the State responsible for arrangements of this kind. I suggest to the meeting that the right way of dealing with this question is to refer it to a special committee.

LEGISLATION.

Turning to the subject of legislation I regret to say that I am not very competent to advise or inform you. Our colleague, Mr. Axon, has kindly put into a nutshell for me the present state of acts and bills referring to Libraries: You are aware that Mr. Ewart's Act, which first gave power to raise a rate for the support of Public Libraries, was passed in 1850. This was followed by other Bills, which appeared at certain intervals of time. In 1890 Sir John Lubbock carried a small amending Bill (53 and 54 Vict., cap. 68), which passed the Commons practically without debate. It provides that in boroughs the burgesses shall be voters for the purposes of these Acts; elsewhere, the County Council electors. Voting papers to be used. The Act limits the rate; and charity lands may be granted for Library purposes. In the Lords it was feared that a clause in it might be detrimental to open spaces, and it was amended. Lord Houghton

had charge of the Bill which received the royal assent. The changes it makes are useful as tending to cheapen and simplify the adoption of the Acts. Its only fault is that it adds one more to the number of Acts dealing with the matter. What is needed is a consolidating Act for England. One was passed for Scotland in 1887, but there are so many things to be avoided, as well as things to be done, in an English Act, to make it satisfactory that very careful handling is needed. Of this we have already had experience. The great towns are gradually taking by their private Bills larger powers than are granted by the public statutes. Following the lead of Birmingham, which by a local act has now no restrictions on the amount of the rate, some of the great towns have secured the right of levying a further rate over and above the penny.

I have been informed by some of our provincial members that in certain boroughs there is great need of a statutory provision enabling outlying townships to contribute through their local Board to the cost of the central Library a lump sum annually, in exchange for which the inhabitants of the said townships shall have the use of the Library and borrow books therefrom. The amount of annual subscription to be agreed upon by the central authority and the several local Boards respectively. This arrangement, say my informants, would give the local Boards power to join a Public Library near them without adopting the Acts or appealing to the ratepayers. Some of these out-townships have a population of 15,000 to 20,000, and it is obviously most desirable that they should be brought under the civilising influence of the Library.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

I should like to say a few words concerning two or three incidents that have occurred in connection with the bibliography of the year.

The discovery in Egypt of a treatise on the Constitution of Athens, attributed to Aristotle, has caused a flutter among the learned, partly on account of the place where it was found and partly for its intrinsic importance. It is not supposed to be the work of Aristotle himself but of one of his disciples. This copy was found on the back of a papyrus, on which some Greek bailiff managing an Egyptian farm had written his accounts of receipts and expenditure. Papyrus, like parchment at a later date, became very scarce. The accounts of the bailiff bear

date 78-79 Anno-Domini. Aristotle died in 322 B.C., and the treatise now under consideration was probably copied about the end of the first century of our era. "The text," says Mr. Kenyon in the introduction to his translation of the work, "is written on the back of four rolls of papyrus of unequal dimensions, amounting in all to some 18 feet 8 inches in length by 11 inches in height. No less than four different styles of writing appear in it, none of them very ornamental. It is written in thirty-seven columns of very varying widths; in one place a column and a half of different matter had previously been written and has been struck out; the last seven columns of the MS. are hopelessly mutilated." There are no doubt important statements contained in this document that tend to alter the complexion of Greek history. It seems a pity that neither Grote, Thirlwall, or Mitford are now among us to explain the possible effect of this discovery on their several theories with regard to that wonderful Republic of Attica. To any of you who wish to pursue this subject further I would recommend the perusal of two articles in the *Journal des Savants*, one by Monsieur Henri Weil in the number for last April, and the other in the May number by M. R. Dareste. Mr. Kenyon's English translation of the work and his introduction are well worthy of your serious attention.

A very important work of the year on ancient literature is Dr. Mahaffy's account of the Flinders Petrie Papyri, published by the Royal Irish Academy. Egypt is surely giving up her dead in the most unconscious manner. Mr. Petrie found while exploring the necropolis of Tell Gurob that the coffins there were made, not of wood as at Hawara, but of layers of papyrus, torn into small pieces and stuck together so as to form a thick carton painted within and without with designs and religious emblems. These shoddy cases made of the waste paper of that time were fitted to the swathed body, head and feet of the mummy, and were painted. It was in the structure of these cases that Mr. Petrie detected the use of discarded documents, and forthwith attempted the difficult task of separating and cleaning the various fragments. Dr. Mahaffy and Mr. Sayce came to his assistance, and the process of deciphering these documents of the age of the Ptolemies (280-220 B.C.) was begun. "Seldom," says Dr. Mahaffy, "has it fallen to the lot of modern scholars to spend such days as we spent together at Oxford in the long vacation of 1890." "Gradually pieces of a

Platonic dialogue emerged, which presently we determined to be the *Phædo*; then a leaf of a tragic poem identified as the *Antiope* of Euripides, and with these many legal or official documents with dates." The deciphering of these extraordinary manuscripts occupied the learned professors not less than twelve months. They warmly acknowledge the care and skill of the Autotype Company in photographing "those yellow and faint fragments under the watchful and able direction of Dr. Maunde Thompson," our President last year.

A third important bibliographical event of the year was the Exhibition at the Burlington Fine Arts Club of an extraordinary and beautiful collection of book-bindings. An admirable catalogue of the collection has been printed (not published, I regret to say) with two most interesting and instructive introductions written, the one by Mr. E. Gordon Duff, the other by Miss Sarah Prideaux. The last named has occupied herself chiefly with gold tool bindings, of which she gives "such an account as will enable the student to trace the development of the art through successive epochs and in different countries. Pains have been taken to describe the ornament characteristic of the different styles and periods." "The art," she adds, "is specially a French art, and the history of it cannot fail to be in the main a history of French binding." It is fervently to be hoped that the Committee of the Club will allow this valuable catalogue to be published. An interesting account of this Exhibition has appeared in two recent numbers of *The Library*, so ably edited by our Secretary, Mr. MacAlister.

The acquisition by the British Museum of a unique Caxton hitherto unknown to bibliographers demands notice. It is a copy of the "*Sex quam elegantissime Epistolæ*"—letters which passed between Pope Sixtus IV. and the Republic of Venice. They were edited in England in 1483 by Petrus Carmelianus, an Italian ecclesiast and man of letters, domiciled here. The volume was purchased from the Hecht-Heine Library at Halberstadt, where it was discovered in 1874 by Dr. Kōnnecke, archivist of Marburg.

You have probably heard that the Emperor of China has ordered a new edition of the Catalogue of the Imperial Library in Peking, which was originally compiled in 1772-90, in 200 volumes. The work was divided into four sections, and contained a general compendium of the literature of China for a period of more than 3,000 years. There is now much to be added to the first edition of the Catalogue. The motive that

prompts those who ask for a new edition is the purely conservative one of checking, by the display of ancient literature, the influx of pernicious modern works into the country, which threatens to overwhelm the teaching of Confucius and Mencius.

THE "PRESS."

Before concluding my remarks I wish to express on behalf of the Association, our obligation for the assistance we have received from the public Press, both Metropolitan and Provincial. They have always reported our proceedings in a kindly spirit. Good humoured banter they have not spared us; of one of our meetings a writer quotes a statement to the effect that a visitor went into a library in that town in which there were 180 supposed readers, and of these 50 persons were asleep; "Nowhere besides," continues the journalist, "could such a percentage of peaceful somnolence be found," and he continues his satirical remarks to the extent of half a column of a London evening newspaper. Another writer in another evening newspaper, demurely asks the assembled Association for the names of the authors whose books the doctors may prescribe in place of sleeping draughts. In contrast with these playful remarks, we have had leaders in the *Times* and other newspapers, that raise the criticism to a higher level.

The *Daily Telegraph* of August 2nd, 1879, quotes Pliny's favourable opinion of Lucullus and Asinius Pollio, the former for allowing in his lifetime, to his countrymen, the free use of his splendid library and museum; the latter, for giving to the public an absolute property in his collection of books. Pliny's pithy observation that Asinius "converted into public property the records of man's intellect," was adopted in a public document, as a guiding motto, by the American, Thomas Jefferson, author of the "Declaration of Independence," and he was well capped by John Adams, the second President of the United States, when he said "that the intellectual cultivation of the poor is more important to the rich than all their own riches," a saying to be well laid to heart in these days.

"THE LIBRARY."

With a word of cordial thanks to the Editor of *The Library*, our monthly magazine, I bid you enter with a good heart upon the work of this our fourteenth Annual Meeting, thanking you sincerely for the patience and good temper with which you have listened to my remarks.

REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM TO THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL
MEETING HELD AT NOTTINGHAM, SEPTEMBER 16TH,
17TH, AND 18TH, 1891.



SEVERAL years have passed since the Council has been able to report so large an amount of completed work and so much solid progress, as have been attained during the past twelve months.

Freed from its financial difficulties, the Association has proved that, far from being lethargic or declining, it is capable of carrying out vigorously the arduous programme it has laid down for itself.

READING MEETING.

It is usual to revert to the last Annual Meeting as the starting point of a new year's work, and the Council has peculiar pleasure in acknowledging the excellent effect produced by the most successful meeting at Reading. The hospitality was so generous, and the programme both of work and play so good, that it would be strange indeed if those privileged to enjoy it did not feel encouraged to put forth their best efforts in the service of the Association and the promotion of its objects.

PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

Although it too frequently happens that local causes conspire to make it impossible for the Association to assist, formally and officially, in the promotion of movements in favour of adopting the Acts, it rarely happens that any agitation is carried on in which the Association is not represented directly or indirectly. The resolution passed at Reading, ordering that a certain sum should be spent in the printing and distribution of propaganda literature has been carried out, and as a first experiment 5000 copies of

Sir John Lubbock's speech at Rotherhithe have been printed. A considerable number of these have been distributed in districts where the agitation is being carried on, and will no doubt have an excellent effect. The past year has been one of steady advance, and the record now presented is full of encouragement.

In the United Kingdom the Acts have been adopted in twenty-one places since the Council issued its last Report. Of these six are within the County of London, viz :—

Bromley-by-Bow.	St. Giles & St. George (Blooms-
Holborn (District).	bury).
Newington (Surrey).	Shoreditch.
Poplar.	

The fifteen places in the Provinces are :—

Arledon and Frizinton (Cumber-	Lowestoft.
land).	Lurgan.
Barry and Cadoxton (near Cardiff).	Peterborough.
Elgin.	South Stockton.
East Hartlepool.	West Ham.
Hove (Brighton).	West Hartlepool.
Kendal.	Willesden.
Longton.	Wood Green.

New Buildings have been opened in the following places :—

Belfast (Reference).	Kirkwall.
Bolton.	Maidstone (Lending).
Crieff.	Newcastle-under-Lyme.
Croydon (Branch).	Oldbury.
Hull (Reference).	Pontypridd.
London :—	Portsmouth.
Battersea (Branch).	Rugby.
Camberwell (Branch).	Sale.
Chelsea.	Salford (Branch).
Clerkenwell.	Salisbury.
Rotherhithe.	Tipton (2 News Rooms).
St. Martin-in-the-Fields.	
Stoke Newington (Temporary).	
Streatham.	

The Acts have been rejected at :—

Bowdon.	London— <i>continued</i> .
London :—	Islington.
Bethnal Green.	Paddington.
Deptford.	St. Marylebone.

LEGISLATION.

At the Reading Meeting a Committee was appointed to prepare and promote a new Library Bill. Their first meeting was presided over by Sir John Lubbock, and he advised that the Association should content itself with promoting a Consolidation Bill, which should embrace all the active clauses of the existing Acts; and that such amendments as the Association would like to effect should be proposed while the Bill was being passed through Committee. This course was resolved upon, and the Committee requested Mr. Fanshawe, a Parliamentary Draftsman of considerable experience, to prepare the Bill.

This has been done, and the Bill is now in the hands of the Council. As soon as possible after the Annual Meeting the Committee will meet to consider and prepare a list of amendments to be in readiness for the Winter Session. Any one who has amendments to propose should send them without delay to Mr. MacAlister.

THE LIBRARY MANUAL.

It is, for some reasons, unfortunate that the Council is unable to present this as a completed piece of work to the members of the Association, but it is better that so important a work should be done well than that it should be done hastily; and the Council has no hesitation in saying that, on the whole, the delay has been an advantage. A large portion of the MS. was placed in the printer's hands some months ago, and other portions are ready for the press, but other and most important sections have been kept back in order that they might contain the latest information on certain subjects. For example, it was deemed advisable to delay the Statistics Section until the Census Returns should be published, in order that the comparative tables might give the correct population of each town or district tabulated.

The Editing Committee, in order to facilitate what remains to be done, have appointed Mr. Mason their executive Editor, and to him should be addressed all communications referring to the *Manual*.

"THE LIBRARY."

The Organ of the Association has appeared regularly. The October number of last year contained a complete report of the proceedings of the Reading Meeting, and every paper read at that meeting has appeared in its pages.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

These have been regularly held, and the attendance has been good.

At the October meeting held at Hanover Square, the Report of the Committee on Statistical Returns of Free Public Libraries was read and discussed.

At the November meeting, Mr. Joseph Gilbert read a paper entitled "Some Misleading Titles of Modern Books."

The December meeting was held at the Battersea Public Library, when Mr. Inkster, the Librarian, read a paper on the "Public Libraries of Battersea."

At the January meeting, held at the Clerkenwell Public Library, Mr. J. D. Brown, the Librarian, read a paper on the "Working of the Clerkenwell Public Library."

At the February meeting, held at Hanover Square, a paper was read by Mr. Ogle, entitled "The Selection of Geological and Biological Books for a Free Public Library."

The March meeting was held at the Richmond Public Library, when Mr. Pacy, the Librarian, read a paper entitled "Notes on the Richmond Library."

At the April meeting, held at the Clapham Public Library, Mr. Welch, the Librarian, read a paper on the library under his charge.

The May meeting was held at Hanover Square, when Mr. Frank Campbell read a paper entitled "A Plea for (1) an Annual List of State Papers and (2) an Annual Report on State Papers."

At the June meeting, held at Braby's Club, Deptford, Mr. Humphery read a paper entitled "The Literary Associations of Deptford."

EXAMINATIONS.

The Committee, appointed at Reading to consider and report upon the whole scheme of Examinations, have submitted an elaborate and able report¹ with recommendations which will be submitted for your approval at this meeting.

CONGRESS OF HYGIENE AND DEMOGRAPHY.

The Council was invited to send delegates to this important Congress, and they appointed Messrs. J. Blake Bailey and J. Y. W. MacAlister to represent them. Mr. MacAlister had the honour of being appointed Chairman of the Editing Committee of the Congress, and contributed a paper to the Section of Preventive Medicine "On Public Libraries and Infection."

¹ See page 375.

REPORTS ON LIBRARY SUBJECTS.

At their January Meeting, the Council resolved to request various gentlemen to prepare reports on several subjects interesting to librarians, to be read and, if thought desirable, discussed at the Annual Meeting. Accordingly the following reports were arranged for:—

On Catalogues,¹ by Mr. C. W. Sutton.

Library Appliances,² by Mr. J. D. Brown.

New Library Buildings, by Mr. Frank J. Burgoyne.

On Library Reports,³ by Mr. C. Madeley.

These reports, it is hoped, will bring up to date the sum of knowledge on the various subjects, and should prove of great value, both as bases of discussion at the Meeting and for reference.

FINANCE.

The Treasurer reports:—"On the change of the form of subscription, the first payment covered a period of sixteen months, ending 31st December, 1890. It was therefore necessary last year to present accounts partly made up of estimates. In order to give the Association a full statement of their financial affairs, an account (marked "A"), supplementary to those of 1890, is now submitted. This represents the actual income and expenditure for the sixteen months. When compared with the last report a considerable difference between the estimated and the actual results will be seen, mainly due, as mentioned in the auditors' statement, to an under-estimate for general printing and stationery. The payment for clerical assistance (10s. weekly), and the expenses of indexing and editing the Dublin and Plymouth volumes (£10 10s.), were not anticipated. The account also includes some items, such as Rent at Gray's Inn, Dublin Transactions, and Plymouth Proceedings, which refer to previous years.

"The Council resolved, 22nd January, to pay during this year sixpence apiece for the copies of *The Library*. This represents an increase of £20 to the annual cost.

"From the annual subscriptions in 1891, about £30 less will be received than in 1890. This does not mean a falling-off in the actual number of members, as the Register has now been weeded of many whose membership had lapsed owing to their subscriptions being

¹ Mr. Sutton was unable to complete this Report in time for the Meeting.

² See page 381.

³ See page 398.

persistently in arrear. One member has compounded by the payment of a Life Subscription of £15 15s. The amount invested for Life Subscriptions is now £210 in Consols, of which the sum of £60 was purchased in August. The cost of these investments has been £207 9s.

"Unless the Council, in the interest of the Association, should resolve upon expenditure not at present contemplated, there is no reason to anticipate that the estimate of a surplus at the end of the year of about £83 will not be realised.

"At the date of this report, the Benevolent Fund consisted of £15 15s. 3d. There have been received during the year, subscriptions of £2 2s. from Mr. J. W. Knapman, and of 12s. from Mr. C. Day. No grants have been made."

MEMBERSHIP.

In spite of withdrawals on account of the increased subscription, the number of members is steadily increasing, and now stands at 470. The list includes 30 Honorary Members, 32 Life Members, who have compounded their annual subscriptions, and 408 Ordinary Members.

PRIZE ESSAYS.

Mr. MacAlister has again offered several prizes, amounting in the aggregate to £20, for essays on various subjects, to be competed for by members of the Association. Full particulars have been published in *The Library*, and in the *Year-Book*. The result will be announced at Nottingham.

OBITUARY.

There remains the sad duty of recording the losses which the Association has sustained by death during the past year. They include Mr. John De Maine Browne, Librarian of the Public Library, Douglas; Mr. Stephen Christy, of Davenport, Stockport; the Rev. Dr. G. Deane, of Edgbaston, Birmingham; Councillor James Jackson, of Wigan; the Rev. S. S. Lewis, Librarian of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; and the Rev. Dr. William Tyler, the founder of the Bethnal Green Free Library, and its Hon. Secretary and benefactor till the day of his death.

J. Y. W. MACALISTER, } *Hon. Secs.*
THOMAS MASON, }

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We have to report that we have examined the Balance Sheet of the Association at the 31st December, 1890, and the Income and Expenditure Account for sixteen months ending at that date, with the Treasurer's books and vouchers, and find the same correct.

The estimate of Income and Expenditure for the above-named period of sixteen months, published in the last Report, showed an estimated surplus of Income of £57. 1s., while the actual result, as appears by the present accounts, was an excess of Expenditure of £7. 5s. 5d. This difference was due mainly to an under-estimate of about £43. for General Printing and Stationery.

The Treasurer's estimate of Income and Expenditure for the year 1891 is based upon the experience of former years and the actual receipts and expenditure to this date.

GEO. R. HUMPHERY,	} <i>Auditors.</i>
T. J. AGAR,	
Chartered Accountant.	

31st August, 1891.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

A. Account of Income and Expenditure for Sixteen Months, 1st September, 1889, to 31st December, 1890.

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.
Life Subscriptions (reserved for investment, per contra)	24	3	0
Annual Subscriptions due 1st January, 1890, covering a period of 16 months, 1st September, 1889, to 31st December, 1890	419	14	0
Dividends on £150. Consols and Interest from Post Office Savings Bank	7	1	4
Sale of Publications, less proportion credited to Stock	13	2	5
	464	0	9
Balance, being excess of Expenditure	7	5	5

£471 6 2

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Life Subscriptions reserved for investment	24	3	0
<i>The Library</i> supplied to Members, &c., for sixteen months, including postage	207	0	8
Dublin <i>Transactions</i> and Plymouth <i>Proceedings</i> :—			
Balance of Printers' accounts	£15	14	9
Index and Editing	10	10	0
Rent of Offices :—	26	4	9
Gray's Inn, 1½ years to Christmas, 1889	12	10	0
Hanover Square, ¾ year to Christmas, 1890	30	0	0
Reporting at Annual Meetings, 1889 and 1890	42	10	0
General Printing, Binding and Stationery, including account of Messrs. Davy & Sons, £46. 10s. 2d., awaiting examination	12	6	0
Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co. for "Monthly Notes" ..	91	12	11
Clerical Assistance	3	0	0
Incidental and Petty Expenses, including general Postages, &c.	25	0	7
Subscriptions overdue and reckoned as an Asset in Balance Sheet at 31st August, 1889, but not received	31	7	9
	8	0	6

£471 6 2

HENRY R. TEDDER, Treasurer.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

B. Balance Sheet of Liabilities and Assets at the 31st December, 1890.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Life Members' Subscriptions required by the Constitution to be invested	205 16 0	Investment—£150 Consols 2½ per Cent., at Cost	149 12 3
Annual Subscriptions for 1891 and 1892, received in advance.....	23 12 6	Cash on Deposit with Post Office Savings Bank	17 18 10
Benevolent Fund—Amount at credit	15 15 3	Cash at Bankers	121 13 7
Sundry Accounts owing by the Association at the 31st December, 1890, viz. :—		Estimated Amount to be received for Subscriptions overdue.....	4 14 6
J. Davy & Sons, Printers	46 10 2	Office Fixtures, &c.	5 15 0
Adlard & Son, do.	3 15 6	Stock of the Association's Publications estimated to realize	40 0 0
J. Bale & Sons, do.	34 2 11		339 14 2
C. Chivers, Binding	3 6 6	Balance being excess of Liabilities (including in the latter Life Members' Subscriptions, £205. 16s.)	5 4 8
Rent—Hanover Square.....	10 0 0	viz.—	
Sundries	2 0 0	Excess of Expenditure over Income in 16 months, ending 31st Dec., 1890 ...	£7 5 5
		Less Surplus in Balance Sheet at 31st August, 1889	2 0 9
			5 4 8
			£344 18 10

NOTE.—The above Accounts have all since been paid, with the exception of "J. Davy & Sons, £46. 10s. 2d.," which is awaiting examination.

HENRY R. TEDDER, Treasurer.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

C. Estimated Income and Expenditure Account for the Year 1891.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
Life Subscription (reserved for investment, per contra).	£ s. d. 15 15 0	Life Subscription reserved for investment	£ s. d. 15 15 0
Annual Subscriptions :—		<i>The Library</i> to be supplied to Members for twelve months, including postage	170 4 0
Received to 31st August.....	353 16 0	General Printing and Stationery, estimated at	50 0 0
Outstanding, estimated at	35 3 6	Rent—Hanover Square	40 0 0
	388 19 6	Sundry Expenses, viz :—	
Dividends on Investment and Interest from Post Office Savings Bank	5 0 0	General Postages, Clerical Assistance, Reporting, Petty Cash, &c., &c., estimated at.....	65 0 0
Rent of Offices received from Sub-tenant.....	5 0 0		340 19 0
Sale of Publications, estimated	10 0 0		
		Balance—being estimated Surplus of Income for the year 1891	83 15 6
			<u>£424 14 6</u>

HENRY R. TEDDER, Treasurer.

REPORT ON EXAMINATION SCHEME,

ADOPTED AT THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, HELD AT
NOTTINGHAM, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 17TH AND 18TH, 1891.

GENTLEMEN,—

The Special Committee which you appointed to consider the Regulations for examination of Library Assistants submit the following Report. They have considered the excellent scheme of examination set forth in the Council's printed prospectus, and they have avoided suggesting any changes in it, except where such are considered, from experience, desirable and even urgent. Your Committee have in no way sought to reduce the standard of excellence required from the examinees, but have aimed at popularizing the examination and rendering it less onerous to Library Assistants by giving greater prominence to the preliminary examination, and by the subdivision of the advanced examination. From the intimate knowledge which your Committee have of the duties of the majority of Library Assistants, and the comparatively little time, with due regard to their health, which they can give to private study, the Committee feel themselves fully justified in laying particular stress on the desirability of dividing the advanced examination, and letting it proceed by one or more subjects, according to the will of the examinee; and this recommendation they make all the more readily from the feeling that knowledge acquired leisurely and free from pressure would be better assimilated and of a more enduring character than if acquired otherwise. Further, the Committee, as managing librarians, believe that if their assistants could be induced to "read up" and be examined in several subjects of the proposed curriculum, even if they should not proceed further, it would be of decided value to them and the work in which they are engaged. It would be desirable to issue to the student an acknowledgment or certificate of the successful passing in each subject, should he elect to pass his examination in this more leisurely way;

and a parchment when he had passed in the whole of the subjects. Without wishing to trench on the domain of the examiners, the Committee deprecate the asking of questions which are of little use except to show that the candidate for examination has a super-excellent memory, as for example, asking the student to state the order of publication of the various works of some voluminous and popular author. On the other hand, they would suggest that the examinees be tested as to their acquaintance with the several subjects named under the head "administration," set forth in the annexed amended scheme of examination, and as to their knowledge of the important subject of bookbinding.

As the Committee feel that the publication of a lengthy list of textbooks for the purpose of study, is more calculated to deter than to encourage Library Assistants to commence a course of study with a view to examination, they would therefore suggest, as more politic, the printing of a short and comprehensive list, rather than an extensive and voluminous one. Your Committee see no reason why the promotion of assistants in libraries should not be more or less dependent on their passing wholly, or in part, the examination of the Library Association; and they have every desire to give practical effect to this view, believing that the systematic study of the various subjects included in the curriculum must tend to benefit assistants, libraries, and readers.

In conclusion, the Committee desire to express their obligations to the compilers of the examination scheme already in use; a scheme which has served as a copy and guide, and which they propose to modify only to a very limited degree.

We are, yours very truly,

PETER COWELL, *Public Libraries, Liverpool.*

CHARLES W. SUTTON, *Public Libraries, Manchester.*

JOHN D. MULLINS, *Public Libraries, Birmingham.*

WILLIAM MAY, *Public Library, Birkenhead.*

JOHN J. OGLE, *Public Library, Bootle.*

July, 1891.

EXAMINATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom holds Examinations periodically for the purpose of granting Certificates to Library Assistants and others.

For the present, persons who have not actually been engaged as Library Assistants may be admitted to the Examinations on obtaining permission from the Council.

The Examinations will consist of a Preliminary and an Ordinary Examination. Each Candidate must pass the Preliminary Examination before entering for the Ordinary, unless he can produce certificates of proficiency in the subjects thereof, satisfactory to the Examiners.

SYLLABUS OF THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

- I. Commercial Arithmetic and Elementary Book-Keeping. A paper of questions will be set relating to such arithmetical operations as are likely to come within the ordinary duties of a Librarian.
- II. English Grammar and Composition; Writing and Spelling. These will be tested by an essay on a familiar subject.
- III. English History. The dates of the principal events and the names of the principal personages in English History, with the circumstances which have rendered them famous.
- IV. Geography.
- V. English Literature. The names of the chief writers, the period when each flourished, and the principal works by which each is known.
- VI. Cataloguing. The transcription of entries from English Title-pages for a short title catalogue on the Dictionary plan. Correction of Catalogue proofs.

TEXT BOOKS.

The following are recommended:—

Subject II—Morris's *English Grammar* and Nichol's *English Composition*, in Literature Primers (*Macmillan*, 1s.)

Subject III—Collier's *British Empire*, Junior Class Book (*Nelson*, 1s. 6d.)

Subject IV—Sir George Grove's *Geography*, in History Primers (*Macmillan*, 1s.)

Subject V—Stopford Brooke's *English Literature*, in Literature Primers (*Macmillan*, 1s.)

Subject VI—Cataloguing Rules of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, except Rules 5, 20, 23, 24, 30 to end (*Library Association Year-Book*, 1891).

The Examiners will issue a certificate to every candidate who satisfies them in this examination.

SYLLABUS OF THE ORDINARY EXAMINATION.

- I. English Literature especially of the last hundred years. The requirements for a *pass* certificate will be met by a candidate having a thorough knowledge of the matter of text-books 1, 2, 3, in the list appended, together with a knowledge of the various editions of the more important English works, and the literature that has grown up around them. A candidate may acquire this knowledge by one or two years' service in a good library.

For a *full* certificate, text-books 9 and 10 and other available sources of information should be studied.

- II. French or German Literature. Easy passages for translation, and the subject matter of text-book 4 or 4a for a *pass* certificate.

For a *full* certificate, the subject matter of text-book 11 or 11a.

- III. Classification. For a *pass* certificate, a knowledge of the names and scope of the principal sciences and their relation to each other, together with the power of placing a number of book-titles under their proper subject headings will be required.

For a *full* certificate, the candidate must show an acquaintance with the principles of a Natural Classification, and be familiar with the systems of classification of books followed in the principal modern libraries of England and America. Text-books 12 and 13 should be thoroughly studied.

- VI. Elements of Bibliography and Cataloguing. For a *pass* certificate, the candidate must show a fair knowledge of the matter dealt with in text-books 5 and 6, and be able to catalogue a number of books in at least two languages, other than English, one of which must be Latin. He must also be able to correct Catalogue proofs.

For a *full* certificate, the candidate must be familiar with the substance of papers and discussions on cataloguing and size notation, and the various branches of bibliography which are detailed in the publications of the Library Association of the United Kingdom; he must have some acquaintance with the leading catalogues and bibliographical works, especially those produced in English-speaking countries; he must know the Latin names of the towns most frequently found in imprints; he must show a cataloguing knowledge of three languages, other than English.

The candidate may offer not more than two special subjects (of which the cataloguing of Incunabula may be one) in which he may desire to be tested, and if he satisfy the examiners his proficiency will be endorsed on the certificate.

- V. Library Management and Administration. This branch of the examination will be directed rather to test the candidate's experience and his skill and readiness in dealing with the various practical problems which may be submitted to him.

The candidate will be examined as to his knowledge of the methods in use in his own library, or in any other with which he may be acquainted. The chief subjects of examination under this head may be set out thus:—

1. Library Buildings:—General requirements as to lighting, ventilation and plan.

2. Library Fittings and Appliances.
3. Selection and Acquisition of Books.
4. Shelf Arrangement.
5. Catalogues:—(a), Shelf Lists (b), Accession Lists (c), Catalogues for Readers.
6. Binding:—Material, ornament, cutting down, requirements in well-bound, and usual defects in ill-bound books, incongruous, wasteful and costly bindings.
7. Administration:—(a), finance (b), librarian's relation to readers (c), circulation of books (1) lending, (2) reference department, (d), stock-taking (e), duties of staff.

The candidate for a *full* certificate will be expected to show some knowledge of the arrangements and regulations of the leading libraries in this country of the class of that in which he is employed, and to be familiar with the works under the head of Library Management and Administration in the list of Reference Books appended.

- VI. General Literary History. Questions in this subject will only be set to candidates for the *full* certificate. Text-books 14 and 15 ought to be read, but questions will not be limited to their subject-matter only.

LIST OF TEXT BOOKS FOR THE ORDINARY EXAMINATION.

Pass Certificate.

1. Morley's *First Sketch of English Literature*, or Craik's *Manual of English Literature*.
2. Morley's *English Literature in the Reign of Victoria*.
3. Richardson's *Primer of American Literature*.
4. Saintsbury's *Primer of French Literature*.
- 4a. Gostwick and Harrison's *Outline of German Literature*.
5. Articles on Bibliography and Typography (Historical part) in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* (9th edition).
6. Horne's *Introduction to Bibliography*, Vol. I except part 1, Chapter iii; and Part 2, Chapter iii.
7. Mullins's *Free Libraries and News Rooms*.
8. Greenwood's *Free Public Libraries* (latest edition).

Full Certificate.

9. Taine's *Histoire de la littérature anglaise*.
10. Mrs. Oliphant's *Literary History in the end of the Eighteenth and the beginning of the Nineteenth Century*.
11. Geruzet's *Histoire de la littérature française*.
- 11a. Scherer's *Geschichte der deutschen Literatur* (original or translated).
12. Fowler's *Inductive Logic*, pages 45-48.
13. Jevons's *Principles of Science*, chapter xxx.
14. Hallam's *Literature of Europe*.

REFERENCE BOOKS FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS.

- Subject I. Cassell's *Library of English Literature*, ed. H. Morley.
Morley's *English Writers*.
- III. Mill's *System of Logic*.
Whewell's *Inductive Sciences*.
- IV. Cotton's *Typographical Gazetteer*.
Cutter's *Cataloguing Rules*.
British Museum *Catalogue of Bibliographies*, (latest edition).
- V. The Article on Libraries in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, (9th edition).
Edwards' *Memoirs of Libraries*.
De Vinne's *History of Printing*.
L. A. U. K. *Transactions* and other publications.
American Library Journal.



Report on Library Appliances prepared by Request
of the Council, and Presented¹ to the Fourteenth
Annual Meeting of the Library Association of
the United Kingdom, held at Nottingham, Sep-
tember 16th, 17th and 18th, 1891.

GENTLEMEN,—

The terms of the reference from the Council as to the scope of this Report were to the effect that appliances of recent years should be examined, but that attention was not necessarily to be confined to devices used in libraries alone. Bearing this instruction in mind, I have endeavoured to procure information about everything recently introduced, as well as regarding many appliances which have been long in existence, though perhaps not widely known.

For the purposes of this report the definition of library appliances is mechanical contrivances designed to carry on or facilitate the work of a library, but excluding such as are connected with structural arrangements. I therefore include furniture, fittings and certain articles of stationery, but exclude any apparatus connected with heating, lighting, ventilation, or means of access. Owing to difficulties in the way of ascertaining exactly when and by whom any appliance was first introduced, some caution has been observed in dealing with the subject, and any opinions expressed will of course be understood to be my own, and not in any way to bind or compromise the Association. The question of originality in library methods is indeed a troublesome one, and many progressive librarians who have meditated new departures are often disgusted to find that their inventive labours have been anticipated by some one else who flourished long before the epoch of indicators and dictionary catalogues. But this experience is universal, as may be seen by a careful perusal of the patents specifications, and need not therefore discourage future exploiters in the field of library economics.

¹ While being read, the Report was illustrated by the exhibition of drawings, models, &c.

For convenience' sake I shall divide the subject matter into two parts, dealing first with fittings and furniture, and then with service or minor appliances.

BOOKCASES.

I have not been able to find anything absolutely new either in the structure or fittings of bookcases, and will consequently rely upon some features probably not generally known to justify this sub-heading. You are all doubtless familiar with that indispensable adjunct of a librarian's office sometimes termed the "American revolver," better known as the revolving bookcase, and warranted to hold considerably less than its advertisers claim; but probably only a few are acquainted with the convenient cast iron bookcases manufactured by Messrs. Lucy and Co., of Oxford, which were shown to members of this Association in the Radcliffe Library in 1878. In certain positions, and especially if wanted to carry much dead weight, these cases will be found useful and durable. The shelves can be adjusted to distances of an inch or thereabout, and the cases are compact, extremely rigid and not unsightly. Their price is greater than wooden presses the same size, namely, 7ft. 6in. high by 4ft. 1in. wide by 1ft. 3in. deep; but of course the advantages of security and strength must be held to be compensating features, to say nothing of their everlasting qualities and adaptability to all sorts of situations. The movable iron cases swung in the galleries of the British Museum, which were shown to this Association in 1889, are worthy of passing mention as a bold method of overcoming the great congestion difficulty; but, of course, they could only be adapted to the special structural arrangements of the Museum. No shelf fitting we have seen can compete with the well-known perforated metal strip of Messrs. E. Tonks and Son, of Birmingham, in the qualities of neatness and ease of adjustability, although there are many cheaper; and I have seen nothing more suitable for Press marking, where the fixed location is used, than the numbered or lettered enamelled iron and copper tablets which are being largely introduced for this and other purposes. I am not sure if librarians will regard as a legitimate appliance the bookcase, which is also a chest of drawers and a bedstead; but it is perhaps worthy of mention for its suggestion of infinite possibilities in the direction of the "multiplication of the principle of utility." Who can say to

what degree this extension of capability will be carried, especially in the way of providing cheap and convenient accommodation on the premises for librarians and their family gods? A rather interesting piece of furniture is notified from Glasgow. It consists of a combined bookcase, desk, and cabinet of drawers, and is intended to form a sort of ornamental rostrum, from which a superintendent can overlook the reading room of the Mitchell Library, and deal out supplies from its inexhaustible drawers as from the wallet of Fortunatus.

RACKS AND STANDS FOR PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS.

Librarians are divided into several camps of opinion as regards the treatment of the current numbers of periodicals. It is maintained by one set that they should be spread all over the tables of the reading room in any order, to ensure that all shall receive plenty of attention at the *hands* of readers, whether they are wanted or not for perusal. Another section also holds the opinion that the periodicals in covers should be spread over the tables, but in some recognised order, alphabetical or otherwise. Yet another section will have it that this latter spreading should be accompanied by fixing, and that each cover should be fastened in its place on the table. Finally, a large section think that the magazines, &c., should be kept off the tables entirely, and be arranged in racks where they will be accessible without littering the room, and at the same time serve as a sort of indicator to periodicals which are in or out of use. For the first plan no special appliance is needful, but the periodicals ought to be well shuffled before being distributed. Nothing soothes the long-suffering ratepayer so much as an evening ramble among reading room tables in search of some magazine which may be either in use or buried under some of its neighbours. For the unfixed alphabetical arrangement, several appliances have been introduced. At Manchester, the periodicals are arranged on raised desks along the middle of the tables. At St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, a somewhat similar plan has been adopted; while in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, each table is surmounted by a platform raised on brackets, which carries the magazine covers, without altogether obstructing the reader's view of the room and his neighbours. Each periodical is given a certain place on the elevated carriers, and this is indicated to the reader by a label fixed on the rail behind the cover. On the cover itself is stamped the name of

the periodical and its table number. Each table has a list of the periodicals belonging to it shown in a glazed tablet at the outer end of the platform support. Wolverhampton furnishes a very good instance of the fixed arrangement. There, each periodical is fastened to its table by a rod, and has appropriated to it a chair, so that removal and disarrangement cannot occur. The rack system has many advocates, and can be seen both in libraries and clubs in quite a variety of styles. At the London Institution there is an arrangement of rails and narrow beaded shelves on the wall, which holds a large number of periodicals not in covers, and seems to work very well. The rails are fastened horizontally about two inches from the walls at a distance above the small shelf sufficient to hold and keep upright the periodicals proposed to be placed on it, and a small label bearing a title being fixed on the rail, the corresponding periodical is simply dropped behind it on to the shelf and so remains located. A similar style of rail-rack has been introduced for time tables, &c., in several libraries, and has been found very useful. The rough drawing shown will give an idea of its structure and appearance. Another style of periodical rack is that invented by Mr. Alfred Cotgreave, whereby periodicals are displayed on two sides of a large board, and secured in their places by means of clips. The earlier form of this rack is doubtless tolerably familiar to most librarians, but quite recently the inventor has effected several improvements. The ordinary clip-rack used largely by newsvendors has been often introduced in libraries where floor space was not available, and is very convenient for keeping in order the shoals of presented periodicals, which live and die like mushrooms, and scarcely ever justify the expense of a cover. An improvement on the usual perpendicular wall-rack just mentioned is that manufactured by Messrs. Smith and Co., of Chelsea, which revolves on a stand, and can be made to hold two or three dozen periodicals or newspapers, according to dimensions and style required.

The racks just mentioned are all designed to hold periodicals without covers, but there are several kinds in existence for holding them in their covers. Among such are the table supports, in metal and wood, on the same principle as shelf book-holders, in which the magazines lie in their cases on their fore-edges, and are distinguished by having the titles lettered along the back or otherwise. An example of this was seen at Reading last year, and I have seen a somewhat

similar plan in other places. The cabinet of shallow shelves in which the covers lie flat or stand upright is an old device, and is not often used now, unless for special purposes. Probably the best of all the racks devised for periodicals in their cases is that on the system of overlapping sloping shelves, worked out, we believe, by Messrs. Jones and Rowlatt, of the Kensington Public Libraries. The idea of this rack is simply that the covers should lie on the shelves with only the title exposed. They are retained in place by a beading just deep enough to afford a catch for one cover and so avoid the chance of their being hidden by another periodical laid above. We have seen nothing more economical as regards space and convenience in use anywhere, and can speak from personal experience of three or four different systems as to its superiority over them all in many important particulars. Before quitting this part of the subject, it may be as well to say that we have looked in vain for the ideal magazine cover. There seems to be no material as at present used which will resist, for more than a few years, the rough handling received both in racks and on tables, and our examination of wood, leather, various cloths, such as canvas, jute, fustian, &c., mill-boards, and even celluloid, has resulted in nothing more satisfactory than the conclusion that neither librarian nor bookbinder has succeeded in producing a cover which will last with ordinary usage even three years, without becoming a reproach to modern sanitation or a threnody in rags.

I must mention here the ingenious metal holder for periodicals introduced by Mr. Chivers of Bath. It consists of a hinged piece of brass secured at the top by a wire hasp, and is intended to run along the middle of a section in a magazine in order to afford a firm catch throughout its whole length.

The day has not yet come when octavo-sized newspapers will obviate the necessity for expensive and obstructive stands on which the day's news is spread in the manner least conducive to the comfort of readers. The man who runs and reads has no necessity for much study, while he who stands and reads does so with the consciousness that at any moment he may be elbowed from his studies by impatient news-seekers, and be subjected to the added discomfort of being made a leaning pillar for half-a-dozen persons to embrace. No improvement of any importance has to be noted on the ordinary type of newspaper

stand, and we have examined many, from the imposing Lambeth ones with their Ben Nevis upward sweep, to the common deal contrivances which rock while you turn the journal. Of holders, however, there are several styles which merit passing notice. The brass rod with the weight at the end is now almost obsolete, as also is the padlock and staple; but they have been superseded in more recent libraries by lighter and handsomer contrivances. The spring rod which opens with a railway key is very effective if you don't lose the key, and so are those with the thumb screws. The holder known as Cuming's Patent is probably familiar to most of you; it has several good points, but seems to be rather easily tampered with by persons who will keep fingering till they find the paper slipping to the floor. There are several varieties of holders for use apart from stands, chiefly used in clubs and coffee-houses, and of these we are able to show you the "Marlborough" Holder, Lyle's patent, which seems excellent for the purpose. A rack is made to hold a number of these. Reference might be made here to the plan adopted at Wigan of displaying the daily newspapers in glazed upright frames, whereby both sides of a paper are exhibited at once, and so can accommodate two sets of readers. This seems to demand a considerable amount of space, and more than one stand for double journals.

INDICATORS.

I shall not attempt to say anything in justification of the Indicator, as against the various ledger and card-recording systems in use, because it is assumed that everyone here has already made up his mind on the subject. It will be sufficient to mention a few of the more recent efforts in the direction of providing mechanical intermediaries between the readers and books of a library. There are models or drawings of them all here so that much explanation is luckily not needful. The Elliot and Cotgreave Book Indicators are already so well known as to require no special mention, and we may therefore pass on to more recent devices of a similar kind. The frame of the Indicator invented by Mr. Bonner, of Ealing, is made to hold little five-sided blocks, on each side of which the number appears on a differently coloured ground, say black, red, blue, green and brown, and it is by the changing of these colours that books are indicated "Out," "In," or "Overdue." By reason of the shape of the blocks and the Indicator openings, two sides of each block

are seen on the staff side of the counter, but by regarding the colour to the left as the one which marks the period of issue, no difficulty should be found in working the system. If Blue represents books *In*, any of the other colours showing at the front will be out. Thus suppose you take Brown to indicate the first week's issue, Green the second, Blue the third, and Red the fourth, a complete series of changes is effected, and when Red is the current colour the Browns and Greens will be overdue. Black, of course, always indicates to the assistant that books are in. The merit of this Indicator consists in what its inventor calls its "self-contained" character, that is, no extra appliance or process is necessary to denote the period of issue at the moment of service beyond the simple turning of the blocks. The record of issue is kept in a day book, and the borrowers' cards are left in the Indicator on the numbers of the books issued. The front of this Indicator has space for the brief titles of the books represented, and only occupies about 3ft. 3in. for every 2,000 numbers. The "Duplex" Indicator, invented by Mr. A. W. Robertson, of Aberdeen, has several novel features which call for attention. It was fully described by the inventor in the *Library*, 1890, p. 21, and we can only hope that you all recollect what he said, as it is rather difficult to explain. However, we shall endeavour to show its working plainly. To begin with, a full-sized Duplex Indicator occupies 5ft. 4in. of counter space for every 2,000 numbers, while a smaller pattern for a similar number occupies 3ft. 8in. of counter space, both being 4ft. high. This Indicator is also a catalogue, and the numbers and titles of books are given on every block. Each block has a removable and reversible sheet for carrying a record consisting of borrower's number, number in Ticket-Register, and date of issue. The Borrowers' cards are made of wood, and also bear a removable slip for noting the numbers of books read. Let us now suppose that Miss Mary Gray, No. 10,103, asks for book No. 210 (Maxwell's *Theory of Heat*). The assistant proceeds first to the Indicator and removes the block, which bears on its surface the location marks and accession number of the book. He then carries Miss Gray's number on to the block, and having got and issued the book, leaves the block and card on a tray. This is all that is done at the moment of issue, and it is simple enough. Mr. Robertson, however, postpones most of his registration till another time, doubtless when a number of issues have been made and the staff

are not very busy. The assistant who does this registration takes a tray of blocks and cards and sits down in front of the Ticket Register, which is a frame divided into compartments, consecutively numbered up to 500 or more, and bearing the date of issue. He then selects a card and block, carries the book number on to the borrower's card, and the number of the first vacant Ticket Register compartment, with the date, on to the book block, and leaves the borrower's card in the Register. Probably the statistical returns will also be made up at this time. The blocks are then placed reversed in the Indicator, and so are shown out to the public. When No. 210 is returned, the assistant proceeds to the Indicator to turn the block, and while doing so notes the date and Register number, and then removes and returns the borrower's card. By this process the Ticket Register is gradually weeded, till on the expiry of the period during which books can be kept without fine, all tickets remaining are removed to the Overdue Register, which bears the same date, and are placed in its compartments according to the order of the Ticket Register. A slip bearing those numbers is pinned down the side of the Overdue Register so that defaulters can easily be found. No. 3 of the Ticket Register issued on September 3rd becomes No. 3 of the Overdue Register. There are twelve Ticket and twelve Overdue Registers, and each represents one day in a working fortnight, the whole when in operation covering a period of four weeks. Of course by keeping a separate Ticket Register for every day in a month or more the Overdue Register would not be required, but the expense of having so many large registers would be great, not to speak of the space occupied. When the defaulting borrower returns his overdue book, the assistant will not find the card in the Ticket Register, hence the necessity of looking in a different place at once indicates that the book is fined. Books which are overdue longer than a fortnight are, we presume, removed, and the borrowers at once notified in the usual way. These are the main working features of the "Duplex" Indicator. There are one or two points on which remarks might be made, and possibly one or two librarians present can add others. The first advantage possessed by this Indicator lies in its undoubted value as a rough catalogue; a second consists in the automatic manner in which overdue books are eliminated with certainty; and a third is the rapidity with which borrowers can be served. But there are several points which seem to us not altogether so

favourable, and among them are these:—The counter space occupied is very considerable, 32ft. lineal being required for 12,000 numbers, or 22ft. of the smaller size for the same quantity. It is thus the largest Indicator in use excepting the full-sized Elliot, which occupies 36ft. for every 12,000 volumes. The comparative dimensions of the various indicators in the market are as follow:—

Counter space required for 12,000

numbers	...	Cotgreave, 15ft. lineal.
Ditto	ditto	Elliot (condensed), 16ft.
Ditto	ditto	Bonner, about 19ft. 6in.
Ditto	ditto	Duplex (small), 22ft.
Ditto	ditto	Duplex (full), 32ft.
Ditto	ditto	Elliot (full), 36ft.

The counter space required would therefore prove objectionable in many libraries. It seems to us also that errors of many kinds must be almost unavoidable because of the amount of handling the cards and blocks undergo, and we should imagine that the accidental upsetting of a tray of the blocks would involve a great deal of labour before matters could be readjusted, especially as the cross entries on the borrower's cards are not made till the end of the process. Mr. Robertson asserts, however, that the whole system works smoothly, and we presume accurately, so that the opinion of anyone who has not actually had some extended experience of the system cannot be accepted as of much value. Two other recently-introduced Indicators for Lending Libraries are those for magazine issues designed by Messrs. John Elliot and Alfred Cotgreave. They are both simply modifications of the Book Indicators of their respective inventors, and as such require no particular description. A rough Indicator for use in Reference Libraries has been used at Clerkenwell, for the purpose of saving readers the trouble of filling up forms for books already in use, and the staff from the labour of sending down a lift for books similarly engaged. It consists of a series of hinged blackboard flaps in a glazed frame, which, under appropriate class letters or series of numerals, carry the numbers of books which are in use or at the binders. It is of very little use unless in large libraries where the running accession number is used in the catalogue, and which issue 200 or 300 vols. daily; or in libraries where exigencies of arrangement demand a method of saving time and trouble on both sides of the counter. The book numbers are chalked in the proper compartment on issue, and

rubbed out on return. The inventor was not surprised to learn some time since that the idea had been worked out thirty years ago. For working his Indicator without separate slides or clips, Mr. Cotgreave has recently introduced a slide ticket, giving four or five changes, and lessening to a great extent the labour of handling the date clips used with the same Indicator. A specimen is now submitted, and it may be added that there are other shaped tickets used which effectively serve the same purpose.

CHARGING SYSTEMS.

Librarians are continually lamenting the dearth of material for interesting papers or discussible subjects, yet, here is one actually clamouring for attention which is very seldom mentioned in this country save as an adjunct of some indicator or system of location. I only propose at this time to mention the card or pocket systems, which claim as special features rapidity of service, and the abolition of both Ledgers and Indicators. There are several systems in existence both in Britain and the United States, but I dare not assign priority to any one of them. At Bradford a pocket system has long been in use. It is worked as follows:—Every book has attached to one of the inner sides of its boards a linen pocket, with a Table of Months for dating, and an abstract of the Lending Rules. Within this pocket is a card on which are the number and class of the book, its title and author. To each reader is issued on joining a cloth-covered card and a pocket made of linen, having on one side the Borrower's Number, Name, Address, &c., and on the other side a calendar. The pockets are kept in numerical order at the Library, and the readers retain their cards. When "Mr. John Smith, No. 1807," wishes a book, he hands in a list of numbers and his card to the assistant, who procures the first book he finds in, say, "East Lynne," B 21, Class E. He next selects from the numerical series of pockets the one numbered, "1807, John Smith." The title card is then removed from the book and placed in the reader's numbered pocket, and the date is written in the date column of the book pocket. This completes the process at the time of service. At night the day's issues are classified and arranged in the order of the book numbers, after the statistics are made up and noted in the sheet ruled for the purpose, and are then placed in a box bearing the date of

issue. When a book is returned the assistant turns up its date of issue, proceeds to the box of that date, and removes the title card, which he replaces in the book. The borrower's pocket is then restored to its place among its fellows. The advantages of this plan are greater rapidity of service as compared with the Ledger systems, and a mechanical weeding out of over-dues somewhat similar to what is obtained by the "Duplex" Indicator system. Its disadvantages are the absence of permanent record, and the dangers which must exist of title-cards getting into the wrong pockets, and so placing the whole system at the mercy of accident.

A system on somewhat similar lines is worked at Liverpool and Chelsea, the difference being that in these Libraries a record is made of the issues of books, and books read by borrowers. It need not be further noticed now, as we believe a description of the system by one or other of its workers will one day be offered to the Association. Mr. George Parr, of the London Institution, is the inventor of the best card-ledger we have ever seen, and though it has been in use for a number of years its merits do not seem to be either recognised or widely known. The main feature of this system, which was described at Manchester in 1879, is a fixed alphabetical series of borrowers' names on cards, behind which other cards descriptive of books issued are placed. The system is worked as follows: Every book has a pocket inside the board somewhat similar to that used at Bradford and Chelsea, in which is a card bearing the title and number of the book. When the book is issued the card is simply withdrawn and placed, with a coloured card to show the date, behind the borrower's card in the Register. When it is returned the title card is simply withdrawn from behind the borrower's card, replaced in the book, and the transaction is complete. This is the brief explanation of its working, but Mr. Parr has introduced many refinements and devices whereby almost any question that can be raised as regards who has a book, when it was issued, and what book a given person has, can be answered without much labour. The special form of card ledger described, shows the system exactly as it is worked in the London Institution, and there it seems to be entirely satisfactory. As regards its application to a popular public library, the absence of a permanent record would in most cases be deemed objectionable, but there seems

no reason why, with certain modifications, it could not be adapted to the smaller libraries, where neither pocket systems nor indicators are in use. Indeed, Mr. Parr's very ingenious and admirable system has suggested to us what seems in theory a workable plan for any library up to 10,000 volumes. Instead of making a fixed alphabet of borrowers, as in Mr. Parr's model, have a series of cards on the same principle of every book in the library in numerical order, distributed in hundreds and tens, shown by projections, to facilitate finding. Have a label in each book ruled to take the borrower's number and date of issue, and a borrower's card like that used for Mr. Elliot's Indicator, ruled to take the book numbers only. When a book is asked for all that the assistant has to do is to write its number in the borrower's card, the number of the borrower's card and the date on the book label, and then to issue the book, having left the borrower's card in the Register. The period of issue could be indicated by differently coloured cards to meet the over-due question, and a simple day-sheet ruled for class letters and numbers of books issued would serve for statistical purposes. The register of book numbers could be used as an indicator by the staff in many cases, and such a plan would be as easily worked, as economical, and as accurate as most of the charging systems in use. This suggestion is made with the full confidence that some one will presently announce that such a system has been worked somewhere for the past fifty years.

CATALOGUING APPLIANCES.

This sub-heading does not trench on the ground of any other reporter, being confined to the methods of production rather than to what is produced. The card-catalogue has of recent years been making much headway, and there are a number of appliances in the way of cabinets, cards, &c., which are worth mention. Various styles of cabinet are in use at the Guildhall and Royal College of Surgeons, London, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Battersea, Clerkenwell, Nottingham, &c., and Messrs. Stone, of Banbury, have sent a specimen of the style in which they have made them for different libraries. Cards are made of all sizes and qualities of board, but in a very much used catalogue the best hard cards will prove most durable and cheapest in the long run. At Newcastle-on-Tyne a linen-mounted card is used, and different colours are made to distinguish author and subject

entries. The typewriter for cataloguing and listing purposes does not appear to have made great progress in Britain, and a word here may serve to draw more attention to this very useful appliance. It may be said that the little cheap concerns called typewriters are of no use for the purpose indicated, and that only the best type-bar writers are of service. With one of these, first-rate results can be obtained in the way of manifold copies of clear, printed entries, suitable for mounting on cards, or posting in the rooms as lists of additions. Indeed, the purposes to which a good typewriter can be applied are endless, and every public library, in a position to do so, should obtain one as soon as possible. But not, however, without very careful enquiry being made regarding which to adopt. Indeed, intending purchasers should make a point of trying several before deciding, as there seem to be rather perplexing statements abroad touching the relative superiority of the different machines. Anyone who makes a conscientious examination of the "Caligraph," the "English," the "Hammond," the "Remington," and the "Yost" typewriter, and satisfies himself that he has selected the best, will not go far astray. Another catalogue appliance is the accession frame, or device for making public all recent additions to the Library. Of these there are several, but we need only mention a few as typical of the rest. At some libraries a glazed case with shelves is placed on the counter, and in this new books are displayed with their titles towards the public. It seems to work very well, and has been used with success at Lambeth to make known different classes of literature which are not so popular as they should be. Liverpool has, or had, a series of frames in which were movable blocks carrying the titles of additions, but I am led to believe that for some reason this has been abandoned. Cardiff shows additions in a frame holding title cards which can be removed by readers and handed over the counter as demand notes. I have not ascertained how this answers. Latest of all is the ingenious cylindrical catalogue holder or stand invented by Mr. Mason, of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, one of the Association's secretaries. It consists of a broad revolving cylinder, upon the outer rim of which are placed a number of wooden bars, each wide enough to take a written or printed author and title entry. These bars are moveable, being designed to slide round the whole circumference of the cylinder, so that additions can be inserted at any part of the alphabet. Each bar represents a book-title, and

the plan of using is that the titles of additions should be mounted on the bars, leaving spaces for additions, and so afford a convenient and easily worked accession list in strict alphabetical order. The cylinder is intended to be fixed in a counter front or special stand, and to be all covered in with the exception of a portion about equal to the size of a demy octavo page, which will show under glass. The reader turns the cylinder round to the part of the alphabet he wants by simply operating a handle, and so the whole is shown to him without any waste of public space. A series of these cylinders spaced out in a row at reasonable distances should accommodate a number of readers at a time, and if each cylinder represented a class, a greater number of persons could be satisfied at once. It is claimed for this catalogue holder that it occupies much less space than a wall list, is easily kept up to date, and can be constantly taken from or added to as occasion arises. It might also be used as a stand for the general catalogue of a small library.

MISCELLANEOUS APPLIANCES.

Boxes for holding pamphlets and prints, or for filing magazines are made in a variety of styles. Some of them are shown in the exhibition of appliances, and among such, special mention should be made of those manufactured by Messrs. Marlborough, Gould and Co., London, Messrs. Fincham and Co., London, and Messrs. Stone and Son, Banbury, all different, and all possessing merits of their own. For general library purposes, however, pamphlet or print boxes made in a style similar to those shown by Messrs. Fincham and Co. will be found most convenient. There is a quite a variety of bookholders, or bookrests, as these useful appliances are variously termed. The rectangular rest of Messrs. Braby and Co. is well known, as also is that of French or American origin, recognised in recent years as "Mason's Patent." Another Mason—one of our secretaries, to wit—is also again to the fore as a designer, with iron and wire holders purposely made to resist pressure. Mr. Robertson, of Aberdeen, has sent a holder which seems very strong and serviceable, though the grooving of the shelf may be considered by many a disadvantage. Mr. Davis, of Islington, London, has introduced a holder somewhat after the principle of a screw jack, the idea being to give support to tall books by affording a stay throughout the height of the volume. It is simply put on the shelf and screwed round till the top is firmly pressed

against the bottom of the shelf above. Professor Lund, of Manchester, is the patentee of a "Shelf-Classification of Books in Libraries" which includes an appliance for keeping books upright. This consists of a sort of elaborate reversal of Mr. Robertson's plan, the groove with a ratchet arrangement running along the under side of shelves to give support to books below by means of sliding and hanging wire-holders. Stamps for marking books seem to be almost unchanged in style, rubber and metal inking, and embossing and perforating stamps being still holders of the field. Rubber stamps are very largely used for dating and all marking purposes, but, unfortunately, very little trust can be placed in the permanency of the ordinary inks supplied with them. Mr. J. B. Bailey, of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, has been so curious as to experiment with the ordinary inks, and has discovered that they are useless for the permanent marking of books. It would be unwise to mention the various ways in which such impressions can be completely removed, and our remarks must be regarded as a warning against the extensive use of such untrustworthy agents. Luckily, Mr. Bailey has been able to induce Messrs. Stephens to experiment, with the object of obtaining an ink which could be used with rubber stamps and be unaffected by chemicals, and the result is that they have produced an ink which, though not perfect, is still superior to the common aniline inks, inasmuch as it cannot be entirely removed. Printing ink used with metal stamps is impervious to the action of chemicals, but the time it takes to dry and the increased labour which the stamps give, as compared with rubber ones, must be held to be obstacles to ordinary use in libraries. A good, cheap, and easily handled perforating stamp which can be worked like a pair of pincers is a desideratum.

This report would be incomplete without mention of some of the forms or articles of stationery which are now so much used. As examples of some of them have already been printed in the *Library*, it will be sufficient to allude to the handy circulars of Information or Guides to Readers issued by the Bootle, Cambridge, Birkenhead, Liverpool, Manchester, and other libraries, and to the Note Book and Readers' Record used at Edinburgh and Rotherham. There are many other articles of a similar nature which are interesting, but they hardly come within the scope of this report. A method of directing readers to the library building by means of enamelled

iron tablets attached to the street lamp-posts has been adopted at Clerkenwell, and, we believe, at Paddington—possibly, also, at other places yet unknown to me. Such tablets only cost about 2s. 9d. each, and will last many years. They form a very good means of advertising the institution among people who cannot be reached in any other way. The immediate effect of their exhibition all over Clerkenwell was a marked increase in the newsroom attendance and reference library issue.

It was my intention to make mention of such appliances as Reading Tables and Desks, Ladders, Lifts, Trucks, Tags, &c., &c., but their number and variety are so great that I was compelled to abandon the task, especially as I found that the mere written description of almost any appliance takes up an appalling amount of time and space, without in the end being clear. No attempt was made to gather information about the appliances used in America, owing to the difficulties surrounding the matter; but I may yet be able to get some information about them and perhaps obtain actual models. An "improved book carriage" has been invented by Mr. L. C. Leith, of Galveston, Texas. It may have its uses for folio volumes, but never having seen it in actual work its merits or demerits can hardly be noted.

It only remains to apologise for the imperfections of this report, both as regards its matter and presentation, and to assure librarians and others whose appliances have not been mentioned, that they have themselves to thank for the omission. An express invitation calling for notes was given twice in the *Library*, and in many stationery, furniture and architectural journals, while many private enquiries were circulated, unfortunately in many cases without being answered. In these circumstances I must hold myself largely absolved from blame.

The collection of material for this report has suggested the propriety of making an earnest effort to start what has been often mooted but never carried out, namely, the formation of a museum of library appliances. Towards this Mr. A. W. Robertson, of Aberdeen, has kindly given a model of the "Duplex Indicator," &c., and I have little doubt that if the necessary appeal were made, the Association would by and bye find itself in possession of a very valuable collection of everything connected with library management. A little museum of models or patterns of appliances; catalogues and forms from the best libraries in the United Kingdom and America; plans,

drawings, photographs, books and all other objects possessing interest for persons engaged in library administration—could hardly fail to prove a useful feature in the work of this Association. Such a permanent collection placed in London and made accessible to librarians and others would be of the highest value to organisers of new libraries, and full of suggestion to any one who made it a visit. If it is agreeable to this Association, and thought worthy of the trial, I will undertake to form such a collection; to arrange and catalogue it; and to make it accessible to all, under such regulations as may be fixed by the Council. In time it might become a very valuable possession, and one which the Association could point to as a proof of the activity and inventive resource possessed by librarians, and there can hardly be a doubt that its use would result in improved methods and more liberal views of the requirements of the profession.

JAMES D. BROWN.

August 19th, 1891.

Public Library, Clerkenwell,

London, E.C.

POSTSCRIPT.

The Council of the Association have thankfully accepted Mr. Brown's offer, and have authorized him to collect and arrange appliances and other objects of interest for a permanent exhibition. Contributions and offers of help should be addressed to Mr. Brown, who will gratefully acknowledge them.

THE HON. SECRETARIES.

Report on Public Library Reports prepared by Request of the Council, and Presented to the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom held at Nottingham, September 16th, 17th and 18th, 1891.

GENTLEMEN,

THE instruction I received from the Secretaries was that I should prepare a "Report on the Reports of Public Libraries issued since the last Annual Meeting." The task set me is one of considerable difficulty. Any value which might attach to a disconnected selection of interesting points from individual reports has been already discounted by the brief notices which have more appropriately appeared from time to time in *The Library*, whilst general deductions would be impracticable, or, at best, of little value, if based on the accidental premises afforded by those reports which have happened to come to hand. Further, although the Association has, during the year, re-issued officially a "Report on Statistics," I have not understood it to be within my duties to consider whether the conditions described in that report still exist, or to enquire to what extent its recommendations have been adopted.

Perhaps the most useful plan will be to select a few of the points dealt with in such reports as I have received which appear to offer useful suggestions, or upon which it may be desirable to have further information.

Several libraries report the adoption or extension of the system of Elementary School Branches. The Norwich report, in particular, shows the stock provided (viz., one volume per head of the children in each school), and the issue, in some thirty-five school departments. Some statement as to cost might probably be easily furnished in a report on the working of another year.

A satisfactory method of estimating the number of visits to Reading Rooms is still a want. The plan of adding together the numbers present at hourly intervals is adopted in some

libraries, but one report says that this is "not satisfactory," and another committee, after counting every half-hour, considers that a further number (basis of estimate not stated) must be added in order to arrive at a fair approximation to the truth. In one case it was found by experiment that the total number of visits bore a sufficiently constant ratio to the number of books issued over the counter to enable this to be used as the basis of an estimate. Probably the same method might be found to answer elsewhere.

The arrangement of the terms on which admission is granted to borrowers outside the rated areas is sometimes a difficulty, and one which there are good reasons in many places for trying to remove. The method of charging a subscription does not appear to be a great success. It acts rather as a barrier than as an inducement to enter. The plan of making a separate charge for each book issued has been tried and found to work very well. The borrower in this case produces the usual guarantee.

The reports seldom state the number of burgesses who, where the rules allow it, guarantee themselves. When given the number varies very much. At Birmingham it is five per cent., and at Croydon twenty-eight per cent. of the whole number of borrowers. Probably the difference is occasioned by some local condition not apparent in the reports.

The references to thefts from libraries are naturally (perhaps designedly) rare, but where they do occur the circumstances seem to support the opinion that such offences are the work of very few individuals, and are not of themselves a sufficient reason for withholding valuable privileges from the many. The Hanley report records a case of exemplary punishment inflicted upon a borrower convicted of damaging books, viz., a fine of 20s. and costs, plus the value of the books.

There are reports and reports. There are also some which are not reports, but merely returns. Committees and librarians, whilst supplying freely, even lavishly, whole pages of statistics, are extremely chary of the few sentences of explanation which would vivify the lifeless figures. Statistics are generally meaningless without explanation, and personal acquaintance with the conditions is nearly always a necessary preparation for the drawing of conclusions from the facts.

CHARLES MADELEY.

Library Association Record.**FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, NOTTINGHAM, 1891.**

Owing to the new arrangements which have been rendered necessary by the change of publishers, it has been impossible to give in this number our usual complete report of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting. It will, however, appear in the November number.

In compliance with the urgent request of many members we have reproduced in this number the various reports which were presented to the meeting, and trust this new feature will be generally acceptable.

MONTHLY MEETING.

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING will be held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, October 12th, 1891, at half-past eight o'clock.

PAPERS: I. Critical Analysis of the Associations' Work 1877-1891, with suggestions for future operations; by Mr. J. D. Brown librarian of the Clerkenwell Public library.

II. Can 'Mudie' help the Public Libraries? a practical note; by Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister.

N.B.—The Council will meet at 7.30 the same evening.

Obituary.**MR. E. A. HOLME KAY.**

With deep sorrow we have to record the death of Mr. Edward Ayton Holme Kay, Librarian of the Baillie Institution, Glasgow, which took place on October 3rd in the new Fever Hospital, Nottingham. Mr. Kay had left Glasgow for the Nottingham Conference apparently in good health, but as his sister was lying ill with enteric fever when he left home, it is presumed he must have carried the disease with him. Mr. Kay was a native of Edinburgh, and when quite a child removed with his parents at Glasgow, where he entered the Mitchell Library as a junior assistant when about fifteen years of age. He remained there for about ten years, and in 1888 succeeded to the librarianship of the Baillie Institution. He was a young librarian of much promise, well educated, and thoroughly in love with his work. In the Mitchell Library and elsewhere he was esteemed for his almost invincible good nature, and for his uniform kindness of heart and cheerful disposition. His unexpected death under very sorrowful circumstances will be a sad blow to his many friends in the Association and in his adopted home of Glasgow.

NOTE BY A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION:—Only three or four weeks ago, in passing through Glasgow, I called at the Baillie Institution to see the library and its librarian. I was much impressed by the extraordinary air of neatness and order that prevailed in the library, and could not refrain from remarking the fact to Mr. Kay. He was evidently greatly pleased and admitted he took pride in the orderliness of his library, saying, with a bright laugh, "It's easier for me to be tidy than untidy, and I find I can do my work better and more quickly for the time I spend in keeping everything in order." He was very enthusiastic about his work and about the Association, and said he was looking forward with pleasure to the Nottingham meeting. He had a good voice and sang with much expression. The last time I heard him was at a social gathering of the Library Association of the United Kingdom. His song was "True till Death!"

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The Place of the Free Public Library in Popular Education.*

THE onward march of Popular Education in the last few years has been amazing, and it is very likely to continue unchecked for many years to come. Movements, which a few years ago were weak and insignificant, are now in the full rush of activity and carrying all before them. The University Extension Movement, the establishment of University Colleges, and the cause of Technical Education have advanced with rapid pace, and now stand conspicuous on the educational highway. Now our clever boys, however poor in their origin, may ascend without hindrance from the elementary day school to the University, or from the artisan's evening class to the Technical College, and thence to a proud position in the world of invention, discovery, or industry. But what is done for the thousands of boys who are not clever, the plodding ones who leave school with credit perhaps, but not with distinction? Is our educational system so weak, that after being educated at considerable expense to their country they are turned adrift at last with tastes created that their narrow means cannot gratify? In thousands of villages and in many towns this is unfortunately the case. In some three hundred places it is not so. Whence the difference? The three hundred places have Free Public Libraries offering free literature to the people, the other places have not. The place of the Free Public Library in the educational system of any town or district where it has been established is one of prime importance to the average person—the person who does not win scholarships, nor proceed to Colleges or Universities. The Public Library is much more than this, but let us first insist on this as the principal reason of its existence. To put it briefly, the Free Public Library is the necessary complement of the Elementary School. How efficiently the after-school education of scholars leaving the Board Schools

* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association held at Nottingham, September, 1891.

is carried on in Free Libraries is little realised by the outside public, or even by the promoters of University Extension and Technical Education. A Free Public Library is not a mere hoard of books brought together pell-mell and dealt out indiscriminately. True, a large proportion of the stock of a Free Library consists of fiction, and a larger proportion of the issues; but let it be remembered that one great object—nay, *the* great object—of education, is the development of character, and the best modern fiction is one of the prime factors in this kind of educational work. Captain Dobbin, Adam Bede, Amyas Leigh, Donovan Farrant, are they not living companions of ours, lifting us out of our mean lives daily? and what Thackeray, George Eliot, Kingsley, and Edna Lyall have done for the education of character in us, will they not do for large numbers of others also through the Free Library? But it may be said all the fiction in a Public Free Library is not of this high class. Certainly, but neither is any of it of a very low class. The training of the modern Librarian well up in literary history, conversant with the best reviews, in touch with the people, knowing the peculiarities of the district, is such as to fit him well for the duty of selecting really desirable fiction; and the necessity of requiring consent to his proposals for purchase by a committee, often including the best and most bookish men in the neighbourhood, acts as an effectual barrier against the admission of very bad books into the circulation department.

Turn aside to the other contents of a Free Public Library. What has been said about the fitness of the Librarian for selecting books of fiction applies with triple force in the matter of books of solid information. In the course of his career as an assistant in a well-organised Library, the Librarian has gradually acquired a knowledge of the chief authorities and standard writers on a very large number of subjects; he has heard the comments of people who use the books; he has dipped into them himself; he has acquired a kind of instinct for the books needed by the people in his own locality. But what use do the people make of the fine collection of works of science, art, and literature provided for them? Statistics are proverbially treacherous, but there is no treading in uncertain places, when it is affirmed that at least one out of every five books issued from the Free Public Libraries of this country is a work of what is usually called solid information. Considering the enormous number of books annually delivered to the public from Free Public Libraries, this represents a very

respectable amount of solid educational reading. Even if the fiction were worthless it might be worth tolerating for the sake of such a residue of good reading. What has been said applies with greater or less force to every Free Lending Library in the country. But the educational value of a Reference Library is greatly superior. A Reference Library is a necessary adjunct to every other Educational Institution; it is the workshop of the literary workman, the laboratory for literary research, Have you University Extension Lecture Courses in a town? the students naturally flock to the Free Public Reference Library, to follow up attendance at lectures with studious reading there. Have you a Technical School hard by? the artisan pupil is sure to call at the town Reference Library to ask for Owen Jones' *Grammar of Ornament*, Rankine's *Civil Engineering*, or other expensive works, which he is almost certain to find there. Without Free Public Reference Libraries the work of University Extension and Technical Education would not have been so successful as it has proved to be.

A certain University Extension lecturer recently published a pamphlet, in which he comments on the inadequacy of the management of Free Libraries to give guidance in the matter of reading to a perplexed student, apparently in order to enhance by contrast the advantages of the Extension Lecture Scheme. With a view to ascertaining the nature and amount of the help given to readers, and to bring home the excellence of the educational work being done in Free Libraries, a number of questions were quite recently sent out to the Librarians of representative towns. Replies and illustrative publications were received from twelve towns. The substance of the replies is embodied in the remaining part of this paper. It has been already claimed that the Librarian is, by his training, specially circumstanced to acquire a knowledge of the books, of the best books, or at least of very good books, on many subjects; but at times even he must find the suggestions and aid of a specialist of great value. Accordingly it is not surprising that the Librarians of nearly all our large Libraries receive more or less frequent assistance from Members of Committee, Professors at Colleges, Head Masters of Schools, Members of Learned Societies, and others possessed of special knowledge. One Librarian says such help has been sought, "and with advantage"; another says, "have often received much willing help"; another, "constantly assisted by Professors at the University College"; another, "the book-lists

are submitted to specialists before purchase." Surely here is evidence enough of ability exercised in the right choice of books. Nothing can be gained for University Extension by comparisons with the inadequacy of the means in Free Libraries for the guidance of readers. The reply of one Librarian will apply with little variation to the Libraries at Manchester, Liverpool, Wigan, Birkenhead, Bradford, Birmingham, Nottingham, Plymouth, Norwich, Cardiff, Glasgow, and Belfast, and doubtless to many more from which information was not sought. It was as follows:—"There is at all times a senior assistant in charge whose particular duty it is to help persons seeking special information, and should he find the enquiries beyond his skill to call upon the Librarian." Beyond this, in many Libraries, as at Manchester and Liverpool, there is a notice put up in the rooms, or placed on the tables, calling attention to the help offered to perplexed readers. At Cardiff the reader's ticket contains a printed notice that the Librarian is in attendance at certain times "to help students and others in search of books." At Manchester and at Wigan an interesting handbook to the Library is published, giving much useful information concerning the history, rules, and catalogues, and the valuable books contained in the Library. It is in contemplation to do something of this kind at Glasgow in the form of a "concise guide." Nothing in the way of a handbook has, so far as I know, been published that is as practically useful to the readers as Mr. L. L. W. Longstaff's "Guide for the Readers at the Wimbledon Free Library." This is a guide to the peculiarities and excellencies of the chief authors represented in the Library, and I think it, in its own way, a model of what a handbook to a Library should be; this, of course, without any disparagement of the excellent handbooks previously mentioned, which are of a distinctly different kind. Speaking of aid offered to readers, one would be guilty indeed to pass over in silence the long series of valuable lectures on books delivered in and published at the Birmingham Free Reference Library. Latterly, a new form of help for students has come into vogue, and is increasingly popular—the publication of special lists. At the Manchester Free Libraries are published special lists—of local histories, on Education, on Sculpture, Carving, and Metal Work, of the Fuller Collection, and of the Shorthand Collection; at Liverpool a list of books for the blind; at Wigan a large broad-sheet of works on the engineering and allied trades is put up in the local workshops; at Nottingham class lists on many

subjects have been published for many years past; at Cardiff lists on music and local topography have been issued; and at Birkenhead several thorough-going hand-lists on special subjects have been published. From many places word comes that such lists are in preparation. Very few Librarians have gone so far as to give analytical or critical remarks to the items in their lists, but some have announced their intention of adding such notes in certain lists now on the stocks. In most Libraries special MS. lists are occasionally prepared and put up. A Free Library frequently becomes a centre of intellectual life in the town or district in which it is placed, and why should it not be a centre of all after-school education? At Manchester, Norwich, Liverpool, and Plymouth occasional or regular meetings of various local learned societies are held on the Library premises. At these meetings it is not uncommon for the Librarian to exhibit in the meeting rooms a number of special works interesting to the members. This has been done to a large extent at Liverpool, and occasionally at Manchester. In some places the Libraries of the local societies are in the keeping of the public Library authorities. At Cardiff "the Naturalists' Society's Library is deposited in the Reference Library. The Society pays all its own expenses of binding, bookcases, &c., and publishes its own catalogue. The committee give house room and the services of the Library staff, the books being available to the general public, as well as to the members of the society. A small collection of books belonging to the Cardiff branch of the British Pharmaceutical Society has just been placed in the Reference Library on precisely similar conditions." At Plymouth the small libraries of a local "Students' Association" and of the "Teachers' Guild" are in the custody of the Public Library Committee. Such are some of the means used to make readers acquainted with good books in Public Libraries. What is the result in the encouragement of study and research? The opinions of the librarians of a few Free Libraries may here be quoted. Mr. William May, of the Birkenhead Library, writes:—"I have knowledge of several works that would scarcely have been written but for the material provided here, and our reference collection is more used to practical purpose year by year." Mr. H. Tennyson Folkard, Wigan Public Library: "Our Reference Library is a remarkably fine one, and we have special students reading here, many of them coming from neighbouring boroughs." Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, Nottingham Free Libraries: "Scientific Societies' publications

are in use amongst college and artisan students, and we have an enthusiastic clientèle of antiquarian readers, so that such works as the Rolls' Society publications, the Calendars of State Papers, and the Government Records are continually in hand. On this subject we may quote from a recently published local work, entitled, *The History of King's Clipstone*, which was compiled within the walls of the Reference Library, and whose author, after quoting such authorities as the State Papers, Close Rolls, and Original Rolls, says, in his preface:—"I have had no opportunity for original research. All extracts are from such printed books as are accessible in the Nottingham Free Library, where, for the convenience of students, I intend to deposit a copy of this work with all authorities acknowledged in the margin." Mr. J. Ballinger, Cardiff Public Library, says:—"The Reference Library is constantly and chiefly used for study and research; the space is too limited at present for us to encourage general readers in the Reference Library." Mr. F. T. Barrett, the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, writes:—"A considerable number of books have been, to a large extent, written in the Library, and for many others research and reference made." It would be easy to multiply such testimonies I could add to them from personal knowledge. Again and again do I hear spontaneous expressions of gratitude on the part of Liverpool students for the privilege of study in their fine Reference Library. But sufficient has been said to prove that the Free Public Library is an educational institution that need not suffer by comparison with others. The complement of the Elementary School, the helpful adjunct of every other educational institution, the centre of the after-school education of the majority of the people, it fills a place, the importance of which is only imperfectly realised at present, but one which is bound to be better recognised as the days go by. Already there are unmistakable signs of increasing recognition. The revised instructions issued to H. M. Inspectors in the Education Code of 1890, under the heading, "Specific Subjects," says: "Teachers should not be satisfied unless the instruction in specific subjects awakens in the scholar a desire for further knowledge, and makes him willing to avail himself of such opportunities as are afforded locally by a Science Class, a Polytechnic Institute, a course of University Extension lectures, a *Free Library*, or a Home Reading Circle." Sir John Lubbock's article on "Free Libraries" in the *New Review*, Mr. Gladstone's speech at the opening of the St. Martin-in-the-

Fields Free Public Library, and such books as Messrs. Brunner and Ellis's *Public Education in Cheshire*, have latterly attracted much attention to the subject of the educational value of Free Libraries. But as yet the appreciation has hardly affected the public purse of John Bull. I only know of one Free Library that ever got anything out of a bequest for general educational purposes; yet such incidents ought not to be uncommon. Latterly, by the passing of the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890, a fine opportunity has been afforded local authorities for acknowledging, in a substantial manner, the educational work done in Free Libraries. But as a matter of fact very few public libraries have obtained anything from the residue under that Act. Surely the provision of technical books, at once the most expensive and the soonest out of date of all reference books, comes well within the meaning of technical instruction. In some towns applications for help have been refused, in some the matter is still under consideration, and in three or four actual help has been voted to the Free Public Library, an acknowledgment of the most satisfactory kind, of the important place in popular education filled by these institutions. However, we work on in the faith of better times when there shall be a Free Library in every parish, books and a comfortable place for study for every person, and an intelligent appreciation of the true position of the Free Public Library as an integral and necessary part of the educational fabric, built up by the united and long-continued efforts of hundreds of honest workers under the lead of a few glorious men, among whom shall be reckoned—not last, nor least—the Ewarts, the Brothertons, the Pictons and the Lubbocks, who championed the Free Libraries in the day of their weakness, and won for them the glory of acknowledged success.

J. J. OGLE.



"Gnats."*

THE various worries and pests with which the long-enduring Librarian has been afflicted ever since the idea of a "Free" Library—that is, a Library where every one was "free" to do what pleased him best—dawned upon the public mind, have again and again been dwelt upon in our annual conferences, and have formed the theme of some of the most racy papers which have been contributed to the *Transactions* of this Association. In styling this paper "Gnats," I wish, at the outset, to imply that these emanations from my private growlery are not supposed to have assumed serious proportions, and that they are not worthy of being classed with that choice collection of Library pests, so cleverly pinned down for your inspection by Mr. Samuel Smith a few years ago, or those other creatures which were caught and brought under our notice by Mr. Mullins at an earlier date. These are, in fact, merely gnats, not of sufficient importance to make one's life miserable, or to render us less happy in that state of life to which it has pleased a Free Library Committee to call us, but sufficiently troublesome to make one strike out at them, if haply one may thereby remove them to another sphere.

The subject of classification generally, and more particularly that of classification of the books on the shelves, is one around which the worrying little insects swarm with the utmost pertinacity. The moment one sets to work in this department of Library management, especially where one has a comparatively small Reference Library to deal with, the difficulties assume more than gnat-like proportions. It is not easy to make a class (on the shelves) of a small collection of works on a given subject if it consists, say, of four or five folios, a like number of quartos, and a dozen works ranging from imperial octavo to duodecimo—and this is not unfrequently the case in sub-classification of the various branches of knowledge in a small library.

* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association held at Nottingham, September, 1891.

In Mr. Besant's dream of the rule of a procrustean democracy all the inhabitants are to be equal, dress alike, live alike, and gradually get to look alike, a rather dismal prospect, but one which will not be without its compensations to the librarian—supposing such an official to be needed in that day—if the principle is extended to the size of books. Till then shelf classification cannot be regarded as an exact science. Even then, perhaps, the tendency of books to overlap—science into theology, and *vice-versa*, archæology into anthropology, and politics into history—will furnish its own particular crop of worries. To the good librarian the *Miscellaneous* Class is the asylum for unclassables, out of which he endeavours to keep his books as far as he possibly can. I should be glad to know of some generic term for certain classes of books which, to me, seem to belong to one another, and of which the small library does not contain enough to make separate classes, so that at present they often get into *Miscellaneous*. I refer to the books on Folk-Lore, Mythology, Fairy Tales, and works on dialect and folk-speech. I venture humbly to suggest *Folk-Literature* as a comprehensive term, and shall be glad of any suggestions from my brother librarians on this subject.

A kindred worry to that of shelf classification is that of the gaps—and the occasional want of them—on the library shelves. I do not refer to the accidental gaps caused by the issue of books, or those more heart-rending gaps for which the Library thief is answerable—the latter is too painful a matter to be classed merely among "gnats." I refer rather to that experience with which all librarians, who classify their books by number—and especially those who use an indicator—must be familiar, viz., the allotting of a given number of blank numbers to allow of future volumes of a certain work, or future works by the same author, coming together on the shelves. If you use no indicator the matter is rather more simple, as you have all sequent numbers up to billions at your disposal, and can leave a blank of a hundred numbers anywhere. But if you have an indicator for, let us say, fifteen or twenty thousand volumes, and are compelled to keep within those bounds in your numbering, the trouble assumes greater proportions. You have already some hundreds of blank numbers which you cannot touch, having allotted them for future issues of magazines and reviews. You get the first volume of a new "series"—and all literature threatens to fall into "series" in the future—and you have to consider how many

numbers you shall allot to it. Having no clue as to how many volumes it will run to, you grudgingly allot thirty, and the series either goes on to fifty, or stops, it may be at five, without a hint that it has come to a conclusion. In the latter case you wait a reasonable time, but pressure on your indicator space leads you, by-and-by, to allot the remaining numbers to other books. Then, when you have filled up the succeeding numbers, another volume of the same series appears, and is followed by yet other volumes at irregular intervals, and you are tempted to use that portion of your vocabulary that comes handiest when the *real* insect stings you.

On the other hand there are the books which come forth as single volumes, and by-and-by are succeeded by a second volume, for which, the chances are, you have not provided. Mr. Birrell's *Obiter Dicta*, and Sir John Lubbock's *Pleasures of Life*, are recent cases in point, and, at an earlier period, Kinglake's *Crimea*, which began as two volumes, and ended as a set of nine. I wonder how many of my brother librarians, who started with a three-volume set of Froude's *Short Studies*, provided for a fourth and fifth series.

The man who has an axe to grind has always been regarded as more or less of a nuisance, and the axe-grinding literature is not an unmixed boon. This it is which helps to swell the donation lists in many Library Reports, and the proportions to which it has grown have given it an important place among the cares of the Librarian. How much of it should find its way to the shelves of our Public Libraries? We have ever before us the fact that some of the axes that are being ground by means of the innumerable pamphlets and other publications with which we are inundated, may be destined to cut deep notches in the log of our country's history, and in that case the ephemera of to-day will become the material for history to-morrow. But the flood of printed matter of the various anti-this-or-the-other-associations cannot be allowed to burden our shelves without also lying heavy on the soul of the Librarian. I cannot help thinking sometimes that all pamphlet literature, with a few obvious exceptions, should be laid aside in an uncatalogued store-room for ten years before finding a permanent place in our libraries and our catalogues.

This is one class of worries which the post brings us, but it is by no means the only one. There is a regular swarm of gnats for us in the postman's wallet. The book sent through the post

on inspection, of which every librarian gets his share, is often a source of annoyance. One cannot feel charitably towards an author who adopts this method of circulating his book, relying, doubtless, on the chance of its being kept to save the trouble and expense of returning it. For my own part, however, I invariably return books at once which have been thrust upon us in this fashion, unsolicited, and I do not think the Library is any the poorer for the absence of books thus circulated.

Then there are the papers which are so freely sent for a month or two, until they have begun to be looked for by readers, and then stopped without warning. It should, I think, be stated in such cases that copies are sent only as samples, or as an inducement to the Library to subscribe, in which case they would not be placed on the tables unless the paper were ordered. Nearly all librarians are indebted to the generosity of the publishers of many of the leading provincial newspapers, trade journals, and other periodicals, which are sent so freely and with such regularity to our Free Libraries, and I should be sorry if the remarks above were construed into a reflection on the free supply of these valuable journals to our reading rooms.

One of the chief contributory sources to the daily load disbursed from the postman's wallet to the librarian's table, is found in the constant supply of catalogues, with which the second-hand booksellers favour us. I would touch on this subject with the utmost gentleness; we all value the stores of information on bibliographical subjects, and the education of the librarian in the matter of book-prices current, which we owe to this class of literature, but one is tempted to feel sometimes that we could be happy if the supply were not quite so copious. At any rate, one feels that the bookseller should temper his generosity with mercy, and not pelt us with second and third, and special and extra-special copies of the same catalogue.

The catalogue question is one which causes the earnest Librarian deep concern. The Dictionary Catalogue is the form he would personally prefer, it may be, but, for the lending department, at any rate, the classified form, freely treated appears to meet the wants of the majority of readers, who seem to be cast hopelessly adrift on the open sea of the Dictionary Catalogue. Many Librarians could give, from their own experience, humorous examples of the difficulties which the Dictionary form presents to the general reader with a limited knowledge of books. *The Recreations of a Country Parson* is asked

for by people in search of a work of broad humour, and Mr. Burnand's *About Buying a Horse* for useful hints about a horse's "points." Between fiction and fact, except they be catalogued in separate classes, many readers seem unable to distinguish; and George Macdonald's *Oris* is as often asked for as a novel, as *The Rose Garden* is mistaken for a work on the culture of roses. Cross references are not unfrequently copied literally as the titles of books, and I have known a cross reference under the name of Mr. Gordon Stables asked for as a work on stable management. Not long ago a pupil teacher filled up a form in our Reference Department for Fuller's *Worthies*, but very soon handed the book back again, saying that the particular biography he was in search of was not in it. I asked him whose biography he wanted, and he said "Lord Palmerston's!" Of course I do not state this particular case against the Dictionary Catalogue, but as an illustration of the limited knowledge of books possessed by many readers. This being the case, not the least among a librarian's cares is how to catalogue a book so as to convey an accurate idea of its nature and scope.

Akin to this is a common difficulty experienced now-a-days. In a hyphenated personal name, which is the real name under which the proper entry should be made? In a few cases, perhaps, the first portion forms an integral part of the author's name, but in many cases this is not the case. Many double names began in the separate form, and were ultimately joined together by the hyphen; in some cases which have come under my own notice, the first surname formerly existed only as an initial (*i.e.*, in the signature or printed form), and ended by being prefixed, siamese-twin fashion, to the real surname.

Another similar worry arises from the re-marriage of lady authors, some of whom appear, in the catalogues of librarians eager to give the latest information, in three different places in as many editions of their catalogues. I would venture to suggest that where the first books have been published under the maiden name, that should be adopted for good and all, with cross references under marriage names. In cases where a marriage name appeared on the first book, I would adopt that in like manner.

The books with misleading titles are a constant source of worry and irritation both to librarians and readers, and form a standing theme for the literary Joe Miller. I will not waste your time with oft-told stories, but there is one class of offenders

against whom one must feel justly indignant. I refer to the collections of miscellaneous essays or sermons which bear the title of the first piece in the volume, although the other essays or sermons which follow have no other affinity with it than that which the printer and binder have conferred upon them. The annoyance of cataloguing a supposititious work on Jonah, or on the Identity of Junius, with the knowledge that it will utterly mislead the reader in search of a full volume on either subject, makes one wish the author had to serve the book every time it is asked for. As I have already stated, many borrowers make mistakes enough in reference to the nature of books, without the author laying a special trap for them. Sometimes the jumbling of titles in the mouths of messengers at the lending counter is sufficiently ludicrous to atone for a good many of our worries. We have all heard of the curious transformations which the title of one of Mr. Drummond's booklets, *Pax Vobiscum*, has undergone in the mouths of would-be readers and their messengers, as *Nux Vomica*, *Vox Populi*, &c. But only the other day I was asked at the counter for the "Works of Joe Stevens," meaning those of "Josephus," and an assistant vainly endeavoured to find Canon Liddon's *Broken Fowl*, which I ultimately made out to be Canon Knox Little's *Broken Vow*. I should not omit to add that the junior assistant suggested (quite seriously) that perhaps it was among the *Bantam Lectures*.

But I must refrain from further wearying you with what may after all, be trifles magnified to the proportions of serious worries under the influence of a disordered liver. The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table was disposed to label more serious lucubrations than these of mine "Pie Crust," and you may regard this paper as the result of a disposition to look on the gloomy side of things. Let me, however, in conclusion, repeat what I said at the outset, that these things do not affect the joy and pleasure which I feel in my calling. As a recent writer has said, "no life can be altogether unhappy which has been brought into fellowship with books," and I rejoice in the fact that for a quarter of a century I have been brought into intimate association with books, at least the outsides of them, as a humble servant of the reading public who use the Free Library.

R. K. DENT.

The Sliding-Press at the British Museum.*

THE object of this paper is to give a short account of the sliding-press or hanging book-press now in use at the British Museum, and to suggest the importance of its introduction elsewhere where possible, and of regard being had to it in forming the plans of libraries hereafter to be built. Every successful library is destined to be confronted sooner or later with the problem how to enlarge its insufficient space. Without considerable financial resources such enlargement has hitherto been absolutely impracticable, and even where practicable has rarely been carried into effect without a long period of make-shift, discomfort and disorganisation for which the enlargement itself affords only a temporary remedy. The great advantages of the sliding-press in this point of view are two: it allows expansion within the edifice itself, without the necessity of additional building, and it enables this expansion to be effected gradually out of the regular income of the library without the need of appealing for the large sums which would be required by extensive structural additions to the existing edifice.

I may assume that all present have seen, or will see, the photographs of the Museum sliding-press exhibited to the Conference, with the accompanying description. I may therefore be very brief in my account of it here, and simply characterise it as an additional bookcase hung in the air from beams or rods projecting in front of the bookcase which it is desired to enlarge, provided with handles for moving it backwards and forwards, working by rollers running on metal ribs projecting laterally from the above-mentioned beams or rods, and so suspended from these ribs as absolutely not to touch the ground anywhere. These are its essential characteristics, without which it would be indeed an additional book-press, but not a hanging-press or sliding-press. In recommending this system of additional accommodation, I by no means wish to insist upon

* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, held at Nottingham, September, 1891.

this special form as the only one adapted for the necessities of a library. I have no doubt that in very many libraries the arrangement of the projecting beams or rods would be inapplicable, and that it would be better to resort to the original form of the idea, from which the Museum derived its own application of it—the idea, namely, of a skeleton door made in shelves, hinged upon the press requiring expansion, running on a wheel resting upon a metal quadrant let into the floor, and opening and shutting like any ordinary door. I have merely to affirm that for the Museum the adaptation we have made is a very great improvement; but this is due to the peculiar construction of the rooms to which the new press has hitherto been chiefly confined. Rooms of this pattern do not generally exist in public libraries, and where they are not found I am inclined to think that the plan which I have just described, the prototype of the Museum sliding-press, may be found the more advantageous. I also think, however, that, for reasons quite unconnected with the sliding-press, this pattern of room ought to be imitated in libraries hereafter to be built, and when this is the case, it must inevitably bring the Museum press after it. It will therefore be worth while to describe this style of building, in order that the mutual adaptation of it and of the sliding-press may be clear. It consists of three stories lighted entirely from the top. It is therefore necessary for the transmission of light from top to bottom that the floors of the two upper stories should be open; and they are in fact iron gratings. It follows that the floor of the highest storey must form the ceiling of the second, and the floor of the second the ceiling of the third. Here is the key to the sliding-press system. The beams or rods which I have described as projecting from the presses that line the wall already existed in the shape of the bars of the grating, and did not require to be introduced. Nothing was needful but to provide them with flanking ribs projecting at right angles, from which, as you see in the photographs, the additional press could be suspended by rollers admitting of easy working backwards and forwards, and then the sliding-press was fully developed out of the skeleton door. No thought of it had ever crossed the minds of the original designers of the building; yet they could have made no better arrangement had this been planned with an especial view to its introduction. They had even made the storeys of exactly the right height, eight feet. I have not hitherto mentioned that the press takes books both before and behind,

because this feature is not essential, and must indeed be departed from when the press is applied to the accommodation of newspapers and such like large folios. For ordinary books it is manifestly a great advantage, but carries with it the obligation that the presses shall not be higher than eight feet, or, when full on both sides, they will be too heavy to work with comfort, unless, which I do not think impracticable, machinery for the purpose should be introduced.

The principle of a sliding or hanging-press is, so far as I know, entirely peculiar to the British Museum, and hardly could have originated elsewhere than in a building possessing, like the Museum, floors and ceilings entirely grated. The main point, however, the provision of supplementary presses to increase the capacity of the library without requiring additional space, had previously been worked out in at least two libraries. The earliest example, apart from casual and accidental applications at Trinity College, Dublin, and, as I have been told, the Bodleian, was, I believe, at Bradford Free Library, and the gentleman entitled to the credit of its introduction there was Mr. Virgo, the librarian. Mr. Virgo's contrivance was, I understand, a double door, not hinged on to the original press in one piece, as in the pattern I have just described, but opening in two divisions to right and left, as frequently the case in cupboards. I speak, however, with some uncertainty, for when, writing on the subject in Mr. Dewey's *Library Notes*, and most anxious to give Mr. Virgo all due credit, I applied to him for particulars of his invention, modesty, as I must suppose, rendered him silent, or at best but insufficiently articulate. I hope he may be present to-day, and that the Conference may hear the particulars from himself. It is due, however, to the Bethnal Green Library, the other institution to which I have referred as having given effect to the principle of press expansion *in situ*, to state most explicitly that the idea of its application at the Museum was derived wholly and solely from Bethnal Green; that the Bradford example, though it had been set for some years previously, was never heard of at the Museum until the model had been constructed and the first presses ordered; and that I am satisfied that Bethnal Green knew as little of Bradford as the Museum did. The Bethnal Green inventor was, I am informed, the late Dr. Tyler, the founder and principal benefactor of the institution, and, as elsewhere, the device was resorted to by him under the pressure of a temporary

emergency—in this case the accumulation of specifications of patents annually presented by the Patent Office. The introduction of the principle at the Museum dates from the November evening of 1886, when, going down to attend a little festivity on occasion of the reopening of the Bethnal Green Library after renovation, I was shown the supplementary presses by the librarian, Mr. Hilcken. I immediately saw the value of the idea, and next morning sent for Mr. Jenner, assistant in the Printed Book Department, in whose special fitness I felt great confidence, from his admirable performance of the duty of placing the books daily added to the Museum, which frequently requires much ingenuity and contrivance. I told Mr. Jenner what I had seen, and desired him to consider whether he could devise a method of adapting the Bethnal Green system to the emergencies of the British Museum. He did consider: he went down to Bethnal Green and saw the presses employed there, and, to his infinite credit, hit upon the plan of suspending the presses from the grated floors of the upper storey in the manner shown by the photograph, which, as I have already pointed out, is entirely original. A model was constructed by the aid of Mr. Sparrow, the ingenious locksmith of the Museum. Mr. Bond, then principal librarian, took the matter up warmly, the first batch of presses was ordered early in 1887, and from that time forward we have had no difficulty at the Museum in providing space for ordinary books, although some structural alterations will be requisite before the sliding-press can be applied to the whole of the New Library, and it must be modified if it is to be made serviceable for newspapers. A new room in the White Wing, not admitting of a grated ceiling, has been specially adapted with a view to the introduction of the press, and may be usefully studied by librarians about to build, although I think that some modifications will be found expedient. I have pleasure in adding that on my report of June 1st, 1888, in which I went into the whole matter very fully, the trustees obtained from the Treasury a gratuity of £100 for Mr. Jenner and of £20 for Mr. Sparrow, in recognition of their services.

I have designedly said recognition, not recompense, for no grant likely to be awarded by the Treasury would bear any proportion to the saving effected on behalf of the nation. To make this clear I will adduce some particulars stated in my

report to the trustees. Eight hundred sliding-presses can be added to the New Library at the Museum without any modification of the building as it stands, and 300 more by certain structural alterations. The cost of a press being about £13, this gives £14,300 for the 1,100 presses, or, with a liberal allowance for the cost of the alterations, say £15,000 altogether. Each press will contain on the average about 400 volumes, showing a total of 440,000 volumes, or about seven times the number of books in the great King's Library added to the capacity of the New Library, without taking in another square inch of ground. Excluding newspapers, periodicals, Oriental books—otherwise provided for—and tracts bound in bundles, and assuming an annual addition of 20,000 volumes of other descriptions, this provides for twenty-two years. But much more may be said, for, whether in the form of swinging door or sliding-press, the principle of expansion *in situ* can undoubtedly be carried out through the greater part of the Old Library, as well as in the basement of the New. What additional space this would afford, I have not endeavoured to estimate. Another immense advantage connected with the system is the facility it offers of gradual expansion. Any other enlargement requires new building; new building requires a large sum to be raised by a great effort of rating, borrowing, or subscribing; and too frequently the adjoining ground is preoccupied, and must be acquired at a great additional expense. Fifty thousand pounds would, I believe, be a very moderate estimate for such accommodation, if obtained by building, as the Museum gets from the sliding-press for £15,000, supposing even that the ground were free to build upon. In our case, however, this ground must have been purchased; and I question much whether anything short of an expropriating Act of Parliament would have obtained it at all. We may well imagine the Trojan siege we should have had to lay to the Treasury, to obtain the Act and the money; the delays of building when these were eventually forthcoming; and the fearful inconvenience which would have existed meanwhile. Now we simply put down a sum in the annual estimates for as many sliding-presses as are likely to be required during the ensuing financial year, introduce them wherever they seem to be necessary, and hope to go on thus for an indefinite number of years. Any new apartment, complete in itself, must involve waste, for some parts of it must necessarily fill up faster than others; but in the sliding-press is a beautiful elasticity; it can be introduced

wherever it is seen to be wanted, and nowhere else. Finally, and for the Museum this is most important, the additional space gained is in the close vicinity of the Reading Room. A new building must have been at a distance, involving either great inconvenience in the supply of books to readers, or an additional reading room, catalogue, reference library, and staff.

I think enough has been said to convince librarians of the expediency of taking the sliding-press, or some analogous contrivance, into account, in plans for the enlargement of old libraries, or the construction of new ones. Some libraries will not require it, either because they are on too small a scale; or because, like branch libraries in great towns, they admit of being kept within limits; or because, like Archbishop Marsh's Library at Dublin, they are restricted to special collections. But all experience shows that it is impossible to provide for the wants of a great and growing library on too generous a scale, or to exhibit too much forethought in preparing for distant, it may be, but ultimately inevitable, contingencies. York Cathedral Library might have seemed safe, but see the burden which Mr. Hailstone's recent benefaction has laid upon it. To the librarian it may be said of Space what the poet said of Love:—

“ Whoe'er thou art, thy master see,
He was, or is, or is to be.”

I should add that the cost of a sliding-press, or of a door-press, might probably be much less to a provincial library than to the Museum, where the shelves are constructed in the most elaborate manner for special security against fire.

In fact, I believe that the sliding-press is only one corner of a great question, and that in planning large libraries it will be necessary to take mechanical contrivances into account to a much greater extent than hitherto. I am especially led to this conclusion by some particulars which have reached me respecting the new Congressional Library at Washington. I am unable to state these with the requisite accuracy, but I hope that some American friend may be present who can supply the deficiency.

I have to add that the photographs of the sliding-press here exhibited by me were taken by Mr. Charles Praetorius, and that copies can be obtained from him. He may be addressed at the Museum. I hope that they fulfil their purpose; they cannot, however, of course, represent the press so well as the model of

it constructed by Mr. Sparrow for the exhibition of library appliances at Antwerp, where it was shown last year. This is now exhibited to the public in the King's Library, and Mr. Sparrow could probably produce copies of it if desired. An account of the press was contributed by Mr. Jenner to the "Library Chronicle," and by me to Mr. Melville Dewey's "Library Notes," both in 1887.

R. GARNETT.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be promptly forwarded.

NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—The seventh meeting of the above Association was held in the Nottingham University College on Thursday, October 1st. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, the President. There was a good attendance of librarians and assistants. There was a small collection of library appliances exhibited. The President gave a short and practical address. Mr. Radford (Hon. Sec.) read the minutes of the Newark and Boston meetings, which were confirmed. Mr. Prichard, of the Nottingham Central Lending Library, read an excellent paper on "How to popularise Small Libraries." The Hon. Secretary gave a *résumé* of the work of the meeting of the Library Association recently held in Nottingham. The objects brought together for the purposes of this meeting were explained by Messrs. Radford and Briscoe. Mr. F. S. Herne (Vice-President) followed with a well-written and interesting paper on "The Leicester Permanent Library." It was decided to meet at Derby on the second Thursday in December.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Free Libraries Committee have decided to acquire the Masonic Hall at Harborne for the purpose of a Free Library.

BRADFORD: ATTEMPTED SALE OF A FREE LIBRARY BOOK.—At the Bradford Borough Police Court, on October 10th, before Mr. Skidmore (Stipendiary Magistrate) and Mr. Horace Waud, a man giving the name of Thomas Cook, ticket-writer, of Sunderland, was charged with stealing a book, value 2s. 6d., the property of the Bradford Free Library. It appeared that on Wednesday the prisoner offered a book for sale at Messrs. Matthews and Brooks's, booksellers, of Sun Bridge Road. Mr. Arthur Bentley, the assistant, at once recognised the book as belonging to the Bradford Free Library, although the pocket in the beginning of the book had been torn out, and the prisoner's name had been written upon the fly-leaf. The prisoner was given into custody, and inquiries showed that the book had been in the custody of Miss Wade, of 2, Pollard Lane,

who had by accident left it by the train terminus in Foster Square. At that time the prisoner was in the neighbourhood begging. The prisoner was committed to gaol for one month.

BRECHIN.—The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of this Library (the gift to the ancient city of an anonymous donor through Mr. Forbes Dallas, solicitor, Edinburgh) took place on Saturday, Dec. 5th. The ceremony was performed by Mr. James Berry, Dundee, Provincial Grand Master of Forfarshire. After the stone had been lowered into position and tried by plumb, level, and square, the Provincial Master gave it the customary three knocks with the mallet. The contents of the cornucopia and of the vases of oil and wine were then poured on it, and it was declared duly laid. At a banquet which was afterwards held in the City Hall, Provost Vallentine presided.

CHELTENHAM.—The sum of £100 per annum has been voted to the Library by the Town Council for the purchase of Technical Books, out of the £760 handed over to them for the purposes of Technical Instruction.

GAINSBRO'.—A requisition, signed by ten electors, has been presented to the Gainsbro' Local Board, asking that the necessary steps be taken for the adoption of the Public Libraries Act, 1890, and it was decided to distribute voting papers to the county electors accordingly, and count them on Dec. 23rd.

HULL.—A public meeting was held on Monday evening, September 28th, in the Reading Room of the James Reckitt Public Library for Eastern Hull, under the presidency of Mr. Harold Reckitt, son of the donor, to hear an address from the Mayor of Hull (Mr. Alderman J. T. Woodhouse) on Free Libraries. The Chairman was supported by Mr. Alderman Stuart, Mr. T. R. Ferens, Mr. A. E. Seaton, Mr. John Fisher, Mr. William Linney, Hon. Secretary of the Library, and Mr. Wilson; and among the audience were Councillors Newmarch, Hall, Marshall, McGaw, and Scott; Mr. R. B. Nicholson, &c. At the opening Mr. Linney gave an interesting account of the great popularity of the Library, and said that the success of the experiment had proved that a Library could be worked within the penny rate: dwelling upon the fact that the penny rate levied on East Hull brought £621, and after all expenses were paid a balance remained in hand of £67, they could claim to have proved their case all along the line. The Mayor then gave an address on "The Social Advantages of Free Libraries."

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—The experiment of placing high-class music in the Lending Departments of the Camberwell Public Libraries is greatly appreciated by the ratepayers. Another new feature in the Library administration of Camberwell was inaugurated by Mr. E. Foskett (Chief Librarian) on November 24th, when he delivered an introductory lecture at the Livesey Library on "Books and Readers," to an appreciative audience. The issue of books for home reading in Camberwell is now said to be at the annual rate of 400,000 volumes.

LONDON: CHELSEA.—Mrs. Cecil Lawson has presented to the Central Library the statue of Sir Joshua Reynolds modelled by her father, the late J. Birnie Philip. The figure is heroic, and was reserved from the sale of the sculptor's effects after his death by Cecil Lawson, the celebrated landscape painter, who intended having it cast and pre-

sented to Sir Joshua's native place, Plympton, but he died before carrying out his intention. It is appropriately placed in this Library, however, as the sculptor's studio occupied the site for many years. This Library and the branch in Kensal Town, W., will in future be open the same hours on Bank Holidays as on other days.

LONDON: ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—The Library Commissioners, after inviting six architects in competition, have accepted the plans of Mr. A. J. Bolton for a new Public Library to be erected on a site in Buckingham Palace Road, presented by his Grace the Duke of Westminster, who is himself one of the Commissioners. Temporary premises, to serve for offices and store-rooms, have been rented in Commercial Road, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., and here books will be gathered together, and the general work in preparation for the opening of the Library building be proceeded with.

LONDON: ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.—A room has just been set apart arranged specially for boys under 16 years of age, with suitable periodicals, &c.; and it is the intention to have entertainments one evening each week, at which lectures, illustrated with magic lantern views, or musical evenings will be given. The first lecture is to be given by Lady Frederick Cavendish, who will speak of travels in South Africa. The boys must be introduced by ratepayers, and can get tickets of admission to the room gratis.

SELKIRK.—Number of readers' cards issued during the year, from September 20th, 1890, to September 20th, 1891—the second year since the opening of the Library—133. Total number on the Register at September 20th, 1891, 1,308. Books borrowed during the period from September 20th, 1890, to September 20th, 1891, 15,779. Decrease from first and previous year, 3,575.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

The Best Books: A Reader's Guide to the choice of the best available books (about 50,000) in every department of science, art and literature, with the dates of the first and last editions and the price, size, and the publisher's name of each book. By W. Swan Sonnenschein. Second edition. With complete indexes. London: Swan Sonnenschein and Co., 1891, 4to, pp. cix., 1009.

A Guide Book to Books. Edited by E. B. Sargant and Bernard Whishaw. London: Henry Frowde, 1891, 8vo. pp. viii., 344.

A Guide to the Choice of Books for Students and General Readers. Edited by Arthur H. D. Acland, M.P. London: Edward Stanford, 1891, 8vo, pp. xviii., 128.

These three Guide Books to Books differ so greatly in scope, size and price, that they in no wise clash with each other, and their simultaneous appearance may be reckoned as a gratifying proof of the spread of the library movement and consequent demand for library literature. The new edition of Mr. Sonnenschein's *Best Books* of course, leads the way. The old edition was full and good, but the new is so much fuller and better that a reviewer may fairly grumble that there is nothing left for him to

say, except that in every large library the book will be found invaluable alike by readers and librarians. Mistakes, misprints and omissions are not wanting, but they exist only to a trifling extent, and do not affect the substantial value of any section which we have tested. Among the misprints *Homer's Smiles* for *Homer's Similes* is worth preserving, and we are amused also to find that a blunder in an Athenæum advertisement which credited Chaucer with a Tale of Sir Mopas as well as of Sir Thopas, has somehow found its way into Mr. Sonnenschein's book. We could almost wish that there were more mistakes like these, but the few small slips we have discovered are unworthy of mention when weighed against the magnitude of the work. Mr. Sonnenschein's order of arrangement has the great merit of easily catching the memory. Theology, Mythology and Folklore, Philosophy, Society, Geography, History, Archæology, Science with a subsection of Medicine, Arts and Trades, Literature and Philology—this may fairly be called a natural order and is thus easily remembered. Two copious indexes are prefixed, the first of Authors and of the titles of Anonymous works, the second of subjects. The book is thus absolutely simple to use, and for the judgment and skill with which it has been compiled no praise can be too high. That it should be the work of a single man is little short of marvellous. In the case of the two smaller guides to which we must now turn, it will be noted that each is the work of an "Editor," who acknowledges in his preface the services of numerous helpers. Taking the smaller first, we find that Mr. Acland defines the "students" of his title-page as mainly drawn from the class who attend university extension lectures, and for these and the caterers for "general readers" at the smaller free libraries his lists may be fairly useful. Messrs Sargant and Whishaw have consulted the needs of a larger public, and have invoked the help of a much larger and more distinguished body of advisers. Many of their headings are thus admirably done, Greek and Latin literature for example, in which they appear to have had the assistance of Dr. Verrall. English literature has hardly fallen into such competent hands, as many indispensable books are omitted (*e.g.*, under the 14th century, Miracle Plays are represented by a small volume of selections, and not by the editions of the Cycles themselves), and occasionally an old and inferior edition is preferred to a newer and better. The heading *History of Printing* represents a still further descent, as all the best works are conspicuous by their absence, and even Mr. Blades is represented by his small handbook on Caxton, and not by the great quarto. Thus the quality of the information given upon different subjects varies very greatly. The general level appears to us, nevertheless, to be fairly high, and the book may be recommended to library committees, though it shares with Mr. Acland's volume the serious fault of mostly omitting the date of last publication of the books it mentions.

A Bibliographical Catalogue of Macmillan & Co.'s publications from 1843 to 1889. London: Macmillan & Co., 1891. 8vo, pp. vi., 715. [With an index of authors and portraits of Daniel and Alexander Macmillan.]

For a year or two past it has been evident that somebody with a nice turn for bibliography had found his way into the house of Messrs. Macmillan & Co. The traditions of the firm had always been honourable, and as far as possible removed from those of the religious societies who delight in undated title-pages and mysterious re-issues. But of late Macmillan & Co.'s new editions have contained concise little notes as to the years in which the work has previously been published, with the

clearest distinction between real editions and mere reprints. From a note of acknowledgment in the preface to the present volume it would seem that we must identify the bibliographically-minded author of these notes with a "valued assistant," Mr. James Foster, to whom also the compilation of the present bulky catalogue is attributed. As a catalogue, we may say at once, it appears to us an excellent piece of work, well planned, and thoroughly and carefully carried out. The publications of the firm from 1843 to 1889 are arranged under the years of their original issue, the order under each year being determined alphabetically by the authors' names. The title-pages appear in every case to have been transcribed in full, even when they contain the lengthiest of mottoes, and a foot-note in smaller type gives the pagination and a brief record of all new editions, reprints, and re-issues subsequent to the first publication. Anonymous works are arranged in the order of their first word, and wherever permissible the name of the author is given in the foot-note. This, by the way, is not done in the case of one of the most successful works the firm has ever published, *Tom Brown's School Days*, though a reference is duly given from Judge Hughes in the copious index at the end of the catalogue. Notwithstanding this omission we may fairly cite this entry as a good instance of the real bibliographical value of Mr. Foster's work.

"TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL DAYS, by an Old Boy.

"As on the one hand it should ever be remembered that we are boys, and boys at school, so on the other hand we must bear in mind that we form a complete social body—a society in which, by the nature of the case, we must not only learn, but act and live; and act and live not only as boys, but as boys who will be men."—*Rugby Magazine*.

"Cambridge: Macmillan & Co., pp. viii. (including 2 blanks), 420, 2 advts.

"CROWN 8VO EDITION, 10s. 6d. *First Edition, April, 1857. Second Edition, July, 1857. Third Edition, September, 1857. Fourth Edition, October, 1857. Fifth Edition, November, 1857. Sixth Edition, 1858 (Preface added). FCAP. 8VO EDITION, 5s.; Printed 1859, Reprinted 1861, February, 1865. CROWN 8VO EDITION, 6s.; Reprinted from flap. plates, 1871, 1872; illustrations added, 1874. NEW EDITION, Reset and Stereotyped, 6s., 1874; Reprinted 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1882, 1885, 1888. NEW EDITION, 3s. 6d., 1889. POTT 4TO, Printed 1868; dated 1869 [even Messrs. Macmillan post date their books!], 10s. 6d. MEDIUM 4TO, Printed, 1882; Reprinted, 1884, 1886, 6d. Also bound up with three other works in a volume known as "People's Editions." GOLDEN TREASURY, 4s. 6d.; First Printed, 1868; Reprinted 1870, 1873, 1876, 1880, with new headlines, 1885. POTT 8VO, 2s.; Printed July (twice) and November, 1865; June and October, 1869, 1870, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1882, 1883, 1885, 1886, 1887."*

Here we have a full and careful record of each of the fifty-one editions and reprints of his delightful book, which have appeared in the thirty-two years between 1857 and 1888. As the writer of the preface judiciously remarks, "It need hardly be said that the number of Editions or Reprints of any given book is no accurate guide as to its sale. An Edition may consist of 250 or of 100,000 copies," or of considerably over a million, for that matter, as in the case of the last issue of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. Still, when a new edition of a book is called for on an average twice in every three years, the size of each edition is not likely to be very small,

and *Tom Brown's School Days* appear to have met with a success very fairly proportioned to their merits. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to remark that Messrs. Macmillan & Co. have not stated on the authority of a chartered accountant the total amount of the profits, and the manner of their division between publisher and author, either in the case of this or of any other work. Considering the benevolent interest which the outside public is ever wont to take in the incomes of literary men, a great opportunity has here been missed; but such details hardly belong to bibliography, and with bibliography Mr. Foster is content. Beyond its usefulness as a work of reference the chief interest in his catalogue is thus confined to the conspectus which it gives of the gradual growth of an important publishing house and the list of the authors who have had dealings with it. Naturally, many of these are Cambridge men, whose connection with the firm began with the publication of prize essays or amateur verse, while yet the headquarters of the Macmillans were at Cambridge, *i.e.*, between 1843 and 1863. This is especially the case with the theologians, Dean Perowne, Archbishop Benson, Bishop Barry, Dean Vaughan, Bishop Westcott and others. Kingsley's connection with the firm began with their publication for him of his "Parson Lot" pamphlet on *Cheap Clothes and Nasty*, in 1850. Archdeacon Farrar, who published almost uniformly through Macmillans, until he was induced to write on commission for Messrs. Cassell, began in the approved style with two prize essays in 1856 and 1857; but of gossip like this it would be easy to write pages, and we will only say in conclusion that Messrs. Macmillan have invested their catalogue with much dignity of external form, and that, although within very narrow limits, it is a work of some real bibliographical value. Were other publishers to follow their example, a complete series of such catalogues would render the task of the future bibliographer of the nineteenth century literature delightfully easy.

La Imprenta en América, Vireinato del Rio de la Plata. Epítome, 1705-1810. Por J. T. Medina. *Santiago de Chile, impreso en casa del Autor*, 1890, 8vo, pp. viii., 51.

La Imprenta en Lima. Epítome, 1584-1810. Por J. T. Medina. *Santiago de Chile, impreso en casa del Autor*, 1890, 8vo, pp. 118.

These two little books, each of them privately printed in an edition of only fifty copies, are intended to serve as foretastes of a complete South American bibliography which Señor Medina has in preparation. In the La Plata volume there are 495 entries, an average of something under five to each year; in that devoted to Lima, 1155, an annual average of just over five. In neither volume have we found any trace of pure literature; the La Plata books being wholly theological or legal, while those published at Lima, especially in the early years of the press, contain also a fair sprinkling of linguistic works compiled in connection with the missionary labours of the Jesuit Fathers. As a matter of curiosity we note the names of the first books published at each place. The first issue from the La Plata press was entitled: "*De La diferencia entre lo temporal y eterno. Crisol de desengaños, por el P. Nieremberg, traducido al guaraní, por el P. José Serrano*, a folio with forty-three engravings. The first publication at Lima was a *Doctrina Cristiana en Quichua y Aymara*. Neither of these books was in the Library of the British Museum when this notice was written, but as we revise it for press news comes of the acquisition of the first three issues from the Lima press, bound in a single volume, books so rare that Señor Medina has never been able to find a copy of any of them.

The Annual Index of Periodicals and Photographs for 1890.
London: Mowbray House [1891], 4to. pp. 145.

We have too long delayed to acknowledge the receipt of this excellent index, compiled, we believe, by Miss E. Hetherington. Primarily connected with the *Review of Reviews*, it serves also as a guide to all the chief magazine literature of the year, while the list of photographs, from which several specimens are reproduced, is an additional attraction. The index has yet a further use, serving as a directory to all the chief magazines, so that alike to those who desire to read what has been written, and to the aspiring writers yearning to find a home for their essays and articles, it may be considered indispensable.

A Catalogue of the Manuscripts and Printed Books collected by Thomas Brooke, F.S.A., and preserved at Armitage Bridge House, near Huddersfield. London: Ellis and Elvey [*privately printed*], 1891, 8vo, 2 vols. pp. 759.

We know not whether more to admire or deplore the system on which this handsome and bulky Catalogue has been compiled. It is delightfully thorough and wholly free from any snobbish concern as to the value which outsiders may set on this book rather than on that. But to the outsider, who is chiefly interested in learning what rare and beautiful books Mr. Brooke possesses, the occurrence of such a Sahara as the setting out in full the contents of Migne's *Patrologia* (Latin and Greek), which occupies just one hundred and eleven pages (pp. 333-444) is almost exasperating. Probably the cross references from various Saints and Fathers to this great collection—cross references so numerous that they often fill four or five pages without interruption—when added together would take up quite half as much space as the main entries, and we cannot help surmising that in the case of this and some smaller collections, equally fully catalogued, the cost of transcription and printing must have considerably exceeded the selling price of the books. But between these wildernesses there are many oases, and these, if only brought together, might have formed one of the most delightful catalogues of recent years, for the entries and descriptive notes are admirably accurate and full, and are illustrated with many excellent photographs. Mr. Brooke possesses a couple of books printed by Caxton, a Maioli binding, an Apuleius (Bononiæ, 1500) with the treasured inscription, *Ioannis Grolerii et Amicorum*, the 1494 edition of Hilton's *Scala Perfectionis*, said to be the first book to which Wynkyn de Worde set his name, an unusual number of works by Etienne Dolet, and many printed liturgies of great beauty and rarity. Among his rare printed books must also be mentioned the "Venetian Library," as it is called—a collection of one hundred and seventy volumes, gathered by Dr. Odorico Pillone, of Casteldardo, mostly in their original bindings, but ornamented on the sides and edges with beautiful paintings by the well-known artist, Cesare Vecellio. Even this interesting collection, however, does not seem to us to turn the scale in favour of the printed books as against the rare manuscripts which are hidden away among Mr. Brooke's treasures. Most of these are liturgical, and they include a beautiful 15th century Italian *Antiphonarium ad usum Ecclesiæ SS. Cosmæ et Damiani*, with fine miniatures, an English 14th century translation of St Augustine's *Meditations*, together with original sacred poetry hitherto unidentified, a Breviary from Walsingham with notes relating to the history of the Abbey and its famous well, a Greek *Evangeliarium* of the twelfth century, and a Frankish of the tenth, and some fine Books of Hours, Missals and Psalters. Among the last one

deserves special mention, a Frankish manuscript of the ninth century, containing the Psalter in gold letters given by Louis le Débonaire to the Abbey of Saint Hubert in 825. This Psalter, in addition to its other points of interest, once possessed the curious property of appearing full of mistakes to any person who improperly possessed it. It was stolen from the Abbey and sold by the thief to Helwide, wife of Count de Geisheim et Dastourg. By Helwide it was given to her little son Bruno, a good boy, proficient in other Psalters, but who made so many mistakes in reading this one that his mother suspected something wrong. Enquiry revealed the history of the theft, the Psalter was duly restored to the Abbey with other gifts, and the little Bruno, presented with books which offered no supernatural obstacles, stuck to them so well that he became Pope Leo IX. So miraculous a book ought surely to be esteemed the gem of Mr. Brooke's library.

Library Catalogues.

Leceister Free Public Libraries. Supplement to the Catalogue of the Central Lending Library. Leicester, 1891. Small 8vo., pp. 62. Old-faced brevier, across page. Numbers modern-faced.

This may be characterised as a classified dictionary-catalogue, as it consists of author, title and subject-entries under the eight classes into which the library is divided. The result is very satisfactory, but an index to or list of the classes would have facilitated reference, and it would also have been an advantage to divide some of the classes into sections, science and art, for example, consisting of natural as well as applied science, and the useful as well as the fine arts. A little more uniformity is needed in the use of capitals, the same title appearing in one place all words with capitals, and in another all lower case, and the appearance is not pleasing in consequence. The punctuation is curious, but is systematically uniform. There are a great number of "wrong founts" for such a small catalogue, the printer having evidently been out of "sorts."

Corporation of Wigan. Free Public Library, Reference Department. Catalogue of Books, by H. T. Folkard, Librarian. Letter E only. Wigan, 1891. Small 4to., pp. 531-574. Long primer across the page, contents in brevier.

A catalogue to be desired by librarians and bibliographers, and, when completed, will be worthy of Wigan's fine reference library—a collection unequalled by any town of similar importance in the kingdom. The entries are of the fullest description, and the subject sections are most elaborately worked out—so much so as to make them rather class divisions; thus Education covers such widely divergent matters as Sunday Schools and School Savings Banks, neither of which can be said to have much to do with the subject in the abstract. It is to be doubted if the labour involved in setting out and printing twenty-two and a half pages of contents of the *Edinburgh Review* is worth the trouble considering how few are likely to wade through them. A better purpose would have been served by indexing the articles under the subjects enumerated or the author reviewed. We do not quite see Mr. Folkard's reason for placing certain books under entomology, and reserving others for insects, when these headings as used are clearly synonymous; for example, the second entry in the catalogue is "E. (R.) Life of an Insect: an account of insect habits, &c.," and this does not appear under entomology, where

many books with allied titles do. Nor do we understand why Darwin's works on evolution should be omitted under that heading, instead of being merely met by a reference. We also note a book on the Entomostraca under entomology, whereas they are usually classed as *crustacea* and not *insecta*. Notwithstanding these we should like to be in possession of the entire work, and with the increased funds now at the disposal of the Wigan Committee, we hope to soon see this important catalogue completed.

Manchester Public Free Libraries. Catalogue of the Newton Heath Branch Lending Library. First ed. Manchester, 1891. Royal 8vo., pp. x., 74. Old style brevier, double columns.

This catalogue has been compiled and printed uniformly with those of the other Manchester branches, and is an excellent example of a good short-title form. The compilation has been very carefully done, but it would have tended to its better understanding if, under the author-entry, books *by* and *on* the author were separated, and the difference made clear instead of mixing them up together alphabetically. We should like also to point out that readers are not all as wise as librarians are, or ought to be in their knowledge of pseudonyms, and therefore references to the real names are necessary under "Twain, Mark," "Conway, Hugh," and others. A separate list of the books for the Boys' Reading Room is included, and this special provision for boys is a well-known feature of Manchester work now happily being copied largely in other places, and with similar success. Newton Heath being the first of the branches to be established in the districts recently incorporated with Manchester, the preface contains an account of the circumstances of its formation, together with an interesting *résumé* of the history of the libraries under Mr. Sutton's direction, and he must be congratulated on the progress recorded.

Croydon Free Public Libraries. Alphabetical list of additions to the Central Lending Library since March, 1890; compiled by Robert C. Chapman, Chief Librarian. Croydon, 1891. Roy. 8vo., pp. 32. Old style brevier, double columns.

An accurately-compiled single-entry list, nicely printed and almost free from typographical errors. We have previously drawn attention to the affectation of giving the dates in brackets, and thus giving unnecessary trouble for no purpose.

Notes on the Contents of the Wimbledon Free Public Library, by L. W. Longstaff. 4th edition revised, 1891. pp. 26, 8vo.

This guide to readers must have materially aided to the right use of the Wimbledon Library, and it is a good sign that a new edition is called for. It could be readily adapted to any library, and doubtless the author or his publisher (Stanford) would readily grant permission to use it. The clearness and conciseness is excellent and beyond improvement.

Catalogue of the Central Kensington Public Library (Lending Department), edited by Herbert Jones, 1891. pp. viii. 338, advs., 8vo. Long primer across page, subjects and shelf-numbers in clarendon.

A carefully compiled and nicely printed catalogue, very free from errors of compilation or printing. The punctuation, or the want of it, is curious but not confusing. The appearance is marred by an advertisement printed on the fore-edge.

Hammersmith Public Library. Catalogue of the Reference Department, and of additions to the Lending Department, also key to the indicator, Classes F. and J. [1891]. pp. x., 148, advts., small 8vo. Brevier across page, first word in clarendon.

The mixed nature of this catalogue, viz., a complete catalogue of the Reference Library, a supplement to the lending catalogue, and a key to the fiction indicator, is not to its advantage. The compiler's method of turning titles about breaks the entries up over much, and should be avoided in future catalogues. The alphabetizing could be improved. Otherwise the work has been thoughtfully prepared. It is gratifying to see the attention being paid in Hammersmith and in London parishes generally to collecting works on local topography, particularly as the parishes are ever changing and the history of the nation is written so largely upon them.

Chelsea Public Libraries. Classified List of Books added to the Central Lending Department and a class list of music, October, 1891. pp. 9, advts.

— Kensal Town Branch. List of Books added to October, 1891. pp. 5, advts., royal 8vo. Both brevier, double columns.

The one list is classified, the other alphabetical under authors, there evidently being a difference of opinion as to the merits of either system. The style of the Birkenhead class-lists appears to have been followed, though we learn that in this case the advertisements permit large editions to be distributed free. The music list comprises some 250 volumes. The full use made of capitals does not add to the appearance of the first-named list, and the last is not well printed.

Nottingham Free Public Reference Library. Class list, No. 17, Geography and Travel. Nottingham, October, 1891. pp. 31. Royal 8vo, long primer across page.

Mr. Briscoe's class-lists follow one another rapidly, and all are admirably compiled. There are the few inevitable slips found in all cataloguing. We are tempted to again refer to the bewildering punctuation, because the compilers themselves seem in doubt and have not carried it out uniformly throughout the list.

Lewisham Public Libraries. Catalogue of the Books in the Perry Hill Branch Library, compiled by C. W. F. Goss, 1891. pp. viii. 165, royal 8vo. Brevier in double columns, clarendon headings.

The feature here calling for most stricture is not the catalogue so much as the collection of books. It seems as if we were examining a reprint of a catalogue published thirty years ago, the books being mostly of earlier date than that period, and yet this is a library just formed and opened. Under "Chemistry" the latest book dated is 1863; under "Electricity," 1844; under "Geography," 1868, and so on; even under "Central Africa" a book dated 1872 seems only to have crept in by accident. Many standard English books are only too remarkable by their absence. Such a library cannot possibly render any reasonable service to the community, and will prove more misleading than useful to students. It would seem as if most of the rubbish of the locality had been shot into the institution, as is too commonly the case. Some librarians are, however, wise enough to sell to the buttermilk and get one

acceptable book for twenty of such as those here catalogued. Of the catalogue itself we cannot speak very highly, and as it bears signs of having been hastily prepared, we note a few defects for future correction. The compiler possesses some ability as a cataloguer, but ought not to work away from good text books and works of reference. It would be much better to give the names of the authors of the numerous anonymous works catalogued than to hunt for real names of pseudonyms. We learn here for the first time that Rudyard Kipling's name is Henry Goodnow Bruce, but beg leave to doubt it. The long lists of contents of volumes of *Chambers' Journal* cannot serve any useful purpose, even were the selection of contents more judiciously made. The headings, "Essays" and "Lectures," are nothing more than heterogeneous masses of books brought under these headings because they happen to have these words upon the title-page, and so Liquor Traffic, Human Understanding, Natural Selection, Shakespeare, Wages, Health, Painting, Animals, &c., are all brought together with about as much reason as there would be for grouping all the works bearing the definite article on their title-pages. There is no occasion to bring the same series of books together in two places, as, for instance, under "French Revolution" and "Revolutions"—France—a reference would suffice in the latter place if deemed necessary. It is also superfluous to refer from Pacha and Pasha to Ali Pasha, though we presume the compiler considered it in some measure requisite to add A.D. to most of the dates given. Probably the great antiquity of most of the books suggested the advisability of adopting some such precaution.

Some Bad Catalogues.

WE have decided that in future we shall only notice *good* catalogues—that is to say, in the orthodox way—giving the name of the compiler and his library.

When we have a bad catalogue before us we only desire to use it as a text and as a warning to others, and have no desire to hurt the feelings or injure the reputation of the probably well-meaning but inefficient cataloguer. We shall, therefore, deal with bad catalogues as anonymous and homeless productions, unless we find the compiler is obdurate and repeats his offence, when we shall bring down on his devoted head the full penalty of his misdeeds. This month we notice two.

Catalogue of the Books in the Library of—, comprising Lend- and Juvenile Departments. Compiled by—.

This catalogue presents certain bad features unfortunately too common in catalogues, of making too much use of the dash and allowing it to serve for authors and subjects alike, with the result that the old muddle of of "Mill on Liberty," "— on the Floss" repeats itself in this and other forms. This has been characterised as the "dot and dash" system, and is of such a confusing character as to need special thought and training to comprehend it. The following instances taken at random from this catalogue will illustrate the peculiar, frequently comic, weakness of the system:

Heaven and Hell. by E. Swedenborg.

—Guide to. 1869.

—our Home.

Guide to Heaven. 1839.

—to the House of Commons.

—to the Law.

I Puritani : Opera, by Bellini.
—Say No, by W. Collins.

It is even better exemplified under the heading Law, where a reader gets much mixed legal information in this form :

Law and the Lady, by W. Collins.
—Beeton's Book of.
—Guide to.
—of Trade Marks, by C. S. Drewry.
—Reign of, by the Duke of Argyll.

In spite of the statements contained in the preface this is in no sense a subject catalogue ; Kirby's Insects is only under "Sketches," Barclay's Apology only under "Apology," &c. This is the more strange when, as the compiler points out, Verne's "Three Englishmen and Three Russians" is under "Africa."

Supplementary Catalogue of Books added to the Lending and Reference Departments—, July, 1889, to July, 1891.

A pretentious production, and quite beyond criticism. The British Museum even would scarcely supply the fullest possible name of an author with all the pseudonyms he ever used in the manner here attempted in a pedantic fashion, and that in a mere title-a-line catalogue. "Mark Twain" is "Clemens, Samuel Langhorne (*Mark Twain*)"; Rider Haggard is "Haggard, Henry Ryder," and "Haggard, H. Rider" on the same page; Ouida is "De la Ramée," "De la Ramé," and "De la Ramé," respectively, while "Q" is simply "Couch Quiller" (*sic*). The compiler has no knowledge of the turning about of titles, of alphabetising, or of subject-cataloguing, and every page, though with but some thirty-five entries on each, yields a crop of errors of one kind or another.

Cuttings from Catalogues.

(The following are bona-fide extracts from known catalogues.)

Cookery.—Holmes (O. W.), Autocrat of the breakfast table.

Logic.—Napier (John), De arte logistica.

Sheep.—Ruskin (John), Notes on the construction of sheepfolds.

Maro (*Virgilius Publius*), Opera omnia.

ditto ditto Anglicæ historiæ.

Music.—Maro (V. P.), Opera omnia.

Dramatists of the Reformation.

Anthropology.—(Gilfillan), History of a Man.

Parasites.—Cobbold (Dr.), Notes on *infernal* parasites.

Mathematics.—Liston (John), On *urinary* calculus.

Insanity.—Erasmus, Praise of folly.

Ocean, see Sea.

Sea, see Ocean.

} From same catalogue.

Mensuration.—Todhunter (I.), *Menstruation* for beginners.

Russell (J. Scott), *Navel* architecture.

Correspondence.

DEAR SIR,—Can any of your readers tell me where to obtain a description of a good shelf catalogue? I am anxious to compile one for the reading room of this library, but I am doubtful as to what method to adopt, and there does not seem to be in this country any such catalogue worth mention.

Yours faithfully,

DENNIS W. DOUTHWAITE.

King's Inns Library, Dublin.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor.
Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publisher, 20, Hanover Square, W.

The Most Artistic Book.*

WHAT is the most artistic book ?

I answer that book in which the letterpress is produced separately from the illustrations, and both brought together to furnish the book.

This course of procedure is that which I would invariably endeavour to recommend as far as lies in my power.

I will briefly notice the circumstances that lead to this conclusion.

Firstly : The best pictures are produced by the copper-plate press, or if otherwise, then by the use of the finest possible *dry* paper and ink, with a thoroughly skilled pressman, working without other things to interfere, and preferably by the hand press.

Secondly: the type matter of a book is best when printed on a paper of good character with plenty of ink, and when the paper is *damp*.

The well-known system of producing the American magazines and their imitators need not be further noticed than to observe that the get-up of the page and of the book, also the endurance of the paper itself, are all sacrificed to the present appearance of the cuts. If you try the paper with the tongue you will find that it has no sizing, and that the smooth-rolled surface is an artificial and temporary substitute. Such work cannot be called the most desirable or valuable thing. The object of this method is simply to provide a smooth yet absorbent surface, on which the ink will dry quickly, and yet possess a gloss as if printed on sized paper.

Now I need not apologise for belonging to the class who believe in hand-made paper, and good old style type, arranged in well squared pages, with here and there a most unmistakable initial letter of good design.

I also like a surface on the paper that can be felt to possess a pleasant undulating roughness. This surface on a well-sized paper protects it from wear as well as from smearing. The high parts

* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association held at Nottingham, September, 1891.

take both the wear and any grime, and can be easily cleaned with rubber. A soft, smooth, absorbent paper once soiled is spoiled for good. I wish and hope that any word I can make use of will tend to increase the use of really good, well-sized paper, not rolled too smooth. Bank ledgers, though blue and ruled, are, I believe, still made of material like this, and are thoroughly good.

But such paper cannot take fine impressions, and if my suggestion is carried out it will not be needed. Let the finest possible printing on the finest imaginable paper be the method for the cuts; then having the type printed and the spaces left, carefully insert the cuts by pasting them in. They look brilliant, and altogether raised above the common by the process, and are legitimately a part of an artistic piece of work.

Copper-plate illustrations.—Mr. Linton's noble work, *The Masters of Wood Engraving*, is almost entirely produced from copper-plate photogravure facsimiles of the various originals at equal scale. All those in the text pages are printed on thin "China India" paper, then trimmed closed and mounted. Few instances are on record of such determination to do justice to the subject.

But it is just to remark that purely pictorial subjects should always be treated thus, and the combined result will be worthy of the trouble. It is particularly worth noting that there is no uncertainty about this mode; there is no doubt whatever as to the resulting appearance of the work when so faithfully performed.

Practical men will see the great difficulty in any other way of illustrating a book with small copper-plate pictures, for a plate mark from a small plate spoils a page of type. Rogers, the poet, met the case by putting his pictures on very large steel plates, so that they could be printed on any part of a page without the edge of a plate coming within its margin. But even this mode necessitated the cutting up of the sheet of paper into leaves, or half, or quarter sheets, at all sorts of places in the book—an immense burden, and quite out of the question now-a-days.

A point of advantage both to copper-plate and relief printing is that a number of subjects are printed at once. In relief work a dozen or more may be done at each pull. But in copper-plate work half that number will generally suffice. The cost of mounting is not great, but the flattening of the sheets sometimes costs as much as the mounting. However, it may be generally

assumed that small and medium sizes can be completed at 5s. per hundred, or 2s. 6d. for a book containing 50 such plates or pictures. When it is remembered that this cheapens the working of the letterpress, particularly as regards time, the increase of cost will be regarded as trifling. But it remains all the time perfectly unquestioned and true that this system will provide the really beautiful book of the future; not, as now, confined to the limited *Edition de Luxe*, but the entire edition really good from first to last, to the credit and the profit of the producer.

ALFRED DAWSON.



Free Libraries and the Photographic Survey of Counties.*

THE immense reduction in the cost of photographic apparatus consequent upon the discovery of better and easier methods, has led to a rapid increase in the number of people who choose photography as a recreation—and now, wherever we go, the amateur photographer is either present or very near.

The pursuit is a very pleasant one to those who follow it, and seems to exercise a fascination over its devotees, if we may draw a conclusion from the number of amateurs who attain to excellence.

This spread of photography has been followed, as might be expected, by the establishment of Photographic Societies in many towns, and I suppose there is hardly a county in England which does not contain one or more Societies.

Several of these Societies are now engaged in making systematic pictorial representations by means of photography of the districts in which they are located; and the object of this paper is to direct the attention of Librarians to the value of these surveys, and to urge the desirability of securing prints from the negatives for preservation in the Public Libraries.

First as to the value of the Surveys. This will be best indicated by an outline of the work attempted.

In the photographic survey with which I am most familiar, an attempt is made to secure photographs of all prehistoric, early British, and Roman remains, such as camps, cromlechs, early crosses, inscribed stones, and Roman roads; of all buildings or places of interest likely to be removed or altered, the interior and exterior of cathedrals, parish churches, chapels, abbeys, or other ecclesiastical buildings, together with photographs of any special features, such as rood screens, carved chests, monuments, and crosses, or any special architectural features; likewise of castles, manor houses, and other dwellings, and the contents of such buildings, such as family portraits or

* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association held at Nottingham, September, 1891.

portraits of celebrities, old furniture, carvings, documents, &c.; views, too, of the coast line, docks, shipping, the streets and principal buildings in towns; and any other objects typical of the county, or associated with local history or the history of the greater world beyond. Particular attention is given to places and objects liable to decay or removal.

(I do not mention the scientific side of the question, such as the photographing of geological strata, boulders, and other phenomena, because in the survey which has come under my notice this is a separate department, under the direction of the Curator of the Museum.)

Secondly: Where should the results be deposited?

The value of such a series of photographs both to the present and future generations will, I think, be at once apparent, and the question arises—How can the work of different photographers be best brought together and be made available for use now, and be at the same time preserved for use in the future? To allow the photographs to remain in the sole possession of those by whom they were taken, to be exchanged about among themselves and their friends, would be to defeat almost entirely the object of the survey. The societies may say, and I believe some societies have said, that the results should belong to the society. But this is not satisfactory, because except by grace of the members the very man who might make important use of the prints might not be able to get access to them, *and unless the society be a very strong one, it will not attract that co-operation from outside photographers*, amateur and professional, which will be necessary for success.

These remarks point to some public institution, easily accessible, and with a reasonable prospect of *permanent existence*, as the most desirable depository for the results of a Photographic Survey; and if the institution selected possesses an officer who is capable of appreciating, and therefore properly caring for, the prints, so much the better.

All things considered, therefore, I think that the reference department of a free public library is probably the safest and most convenient place for depositing the survey record. The principal library in the district will probably be selected as a *central* depository, but the other libraries in the county should not be overlooked, and, supposing copies of all the prints cannot be sent to each, then the special *pictures relating to the district* should be supplied, and also the most important photographs of historical objects and places in the county.

Thirdly, the method of securing the Survey. If a survey is already in progress the Library Committee or the Town Council might make an application to the society or individuals engaged in its promotion, pointing out the advantages of having a safe and permanent dépôt. But where a survey is not commenced, the subject should be at once brought to the notice of photographers by the Library Committee or the Librarian, and the importance of the undertaking pointed out. And it will be a good thing, if possible, to secure the interest of some ardent photographer or antiquary who will make the survey a hobby—and determine to carry it out, or at any rate to begin even in the face of discouragements. Every effort should be made to enlist the help of professional photographers and of amateurs who work independently. It is important to hunt up old and forgotten negatives of places perhaps equally forgotten or only dimly remembered, and to get prints from them—if necessary defraying the cost of printing.

After a year or two of work it would be well to try an Exhibition of the results, and perhaps even to offer prizes for the best collections. Here is a schedule of classes from such an Exhibition:—

1. Gold, silver, and bronze medals respectively for collections of photographs illustrating Glamorganshire, past and present.

One silver and one bronze medal in each of the following classes:

- a. Collections illustrating that portion of Monmouthshire (Newport included) within twelve miles of Cardiff.
- b. Collections illustrating the churches and chapels of Glamorganshire.
- c. Collections illustrating Cardiff, past and present.
- d. Collections illustrating Glamorganshire castles, mansions, religious houses, and crosses.
- e. Collections of lantern slides, illustrating the County of Glamorgan.
- f. Collections of lantern slides, illustrating Cardiff, past and present.

This competition attracted 787 prints, many of them of great excellence, and all of value for the Survey. It has put the Survey work on a sound basis, by showing the importance and interest of the photographic record, by enlisting the in-

terest of the public, and securing the assistance of many photographers who had hitherto not been attracted; and last, but equally important, by encouraging those already engaged in the work. On all hands surprise has been expressed at the revelation made by the pictures as to the number of places and things of historical interest in the county—and many items unknown or overlooked have been pointed out. The lantern slides were used during the Exhibition for evening demonstrations with limelight, and greatly added to the attractiveness of the Exhibition. They will be available, subject to certain regulations as to security, for lectures and entertainments.

And now a few words as to the arrangement and preservation of the collection.

It is undesirable to have any stipulated size for the prints, but a standard size for the mounts should be adopted, and adhered to as closely as possible. We use 17 in. by 15 in. mounts.

Cards are preferable for mounting, but cartridge paper may be used.

Small prints may be placed two or more on one mount.

Contributors should be allowed to mount their own prints, adhering to the standard mount where possible, or to supply unmounted copies.

The subject, date when taken, and name of the photographer, should be supplied in writing with each print, and notes, such as "*removed 18* ," "*rebuilt 18* ," or other facts, where necessary, should be added.

While not excluding silver prints, an effort should be made to secure all prints in a more permanent process, such as platinotype or carbon.

The collection may be bound either in districts and sub-districts, with special volumes for particular subjects, such as a cathedral or abbey, or the work of extensive contributors may be kept together, with "*miscellaneous*" volumes for the smaller contributors, a subject index being provided.

Whichever method be adopted, a copy of the 6in. Ordnance Maps of the County should be obtained, and the objects numbered in red ink, a corresponding number being placed in red on or against the print.

Any printed references to the subjects should be noted either on the mounts or on interleaves, and original information should be carefully collected and added from time to time.

Descriptive readings should be prepared to accompany the lantern slides.

Many developments of the value of such a Survey will ensue once the work is fairly in hand. I have brought the subject before you, with a view to encouraging immediate action in the interests of libraries and of historical research.

JOHN BALLINGER.



Additional
Notes to Blades' "Bibliographical Miscellanies."

Nos. III. IV. V.

Books in Chains (continued from page 273.)

MOST of the following notes appeared in the pages of *The Antiquary*, not the journal of that name at present published by Mr. Elliot Stock, but a little-known, and now defunct magazine, the volumes of which are difficult to procure. The list of churches having chained books might be still further enlarged, and I venture to hope that the members of the Library Association will assist in making it complete, then a copy could be placed in every public library in the kingdom. A list of this kind might be the means of saving from an untimely end some of these curious relics of a custom once general, now extinct. Many of the books reported to Mr. Blades as lost, were removed from the churches at the time of their so-called restoration and have never been replaced.

It is surprising how little information on the subject of chained books is in print, and how erroneous are the estimates formed by most people, who have not entered this by-path of Bibliography, as to the number of chained volumes now remaining in England. If Mr. Blades' figures may be relied upon, and there can be little doubt that they are correct, there are in all several thousand chained volumes, distributed amongst eighty-seven parishes in England and Wales. The additions in the former and the present note will bring the number of churches known to possess chained books to nearly one hundred. It is a fact not generally known, though proved repeatedly by extracts from churchwardens' accounts, that it was customary to chain books in churches till late in the eighteenth century. As an illustration of this the following quaint passage quoted by Mr. J. Hannett in *The Forest of Arden* may not be out of place:—"So late as 1711 this precaution against pilfering continued, for it was then stated—'Since to the great reproach of the nation, and a much greater one of our holy religion, the thievish disposition of some that enter into libraries to learn no good there, hath made it necessary to secure the innocent books, and even the sacred volumes themselves, with chains—which are better deserving by those ill persons, who have too much learning to be hanged and too little to be honest.'"*—British Magazine*, x., 391.

The following query appeared in *The Antiquary* in November, 1873, and elicited many interesting notes here reprinted:—

"CHAINED BOOKS IN CHURCHES.—I should be glad if any of your readers could assist me in arriving at anything like an accurate list of the churches in England which possess at the present time Bibles or other religious works chained, as was formerly the custom in most churches. I remember some years ago, when travelling in Norfolk, having my attention drawn to one of these relics. It was in a small parish church somewhere in the neighbourhood of North Walsingham, but the exact name of the place has at the present moment escaped my memory.* The book in question was preserved in a kind of cupboard or hutch on the north side of the chancel, near the altar rails. The 'hutch,' which was composed of plain and almost unshapen boards, was evidently designed for the safe custody of the book when not in use. At the top was a narrow shelf which served the purpose of a reading-desk, and the volume itself was a copy of *Fox's Book of Martyrs*. Ashford Church, in Kent, if I am not mistaken, has or had a chained copy of the *Book of Martyrs*, for the perusal of such as chose to avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded them. Some of your correspondents, I have no doubt, can point out instances where they are still preserved, or where there are traces left of books having been so exposed."

(Signed) J. HAMMOND.

—*The Antiquary*, Vol. IV., November 1st, 1873.

To this Mr. Frederick Rule replied on November 22nd, 1873:—"Your correspondent, Mr. Hammond, is quite right. *Fox's Book of Martyrs* was chained to a desk in Ashford Church, Kent, but the desk and book were removed in 1833 to make room for new pews. The folio is now in a box in the church. I have seen what remains of the book, which is very much shorn of its original contents—in fact, it has been *disembowelled*. Nothing but the ring, to which a chain was once attached, remains."

"A correspondent signing himself 'Jacobus' writes: 'A desk, originally used for chaining Bibles to, is shown at Canterbury Cathedral, and, if I am not mistaken, a similar desk is to be seen at York Minster.'"

—*The Antiquary*, Vol. IV., Nov. 8th, 1873.

Mr. Blades notices the desk at Canterbury, but does not mention that supposed to be in York Minster.

The next correspondent, Mr. John Watson Dalby, offers some remarks on the "formidable line of chained books" at Hereford.—*The Antiquary*, Vol. IV., Nov. 15th, 1873. (These were known to Mr. Blades.)

The following instances have been recorded in the "Bye-gones" column of the *Oswestry Advertiser*:—

"WHITCHURCH: SALOP.—*The Book of Martyrs*, black letter, 1556."

{Mr. Blades does not mention this place, but he records that chained prayer-books were in use at *Whitchurch*, Little Stanmore, Middlesex. The *Whitchurch* mentioned in the *Observer* is in Salop.)

* Probably Lessingham, now a ruin. See *Books in Chains*, p. 30.

"TILSTOCK : SALOP.—*Book of Martyrs*, by Jones, two vols. (this is said to be in the vestry).

"HODNET : SALOP.—The church where Bishop Heber was rector—a book chained to the desk.

"UPTON MAGNA : SALOP.—A book chained to the desk near the pulpit, entitled 'An answer to a certaine booke lately set forth by Mr. Harding, entitled *A Confutation of the Apology of the Church of England*, by Bishop Jewell.' (This disappeared at the restoration (?) of the church a few years ago.)

"BASCHURCH : SALOP.—A Bible chained to a pew."

"MUNSLOW : SALOP.—A book chained to a stand (removed a few years ago when the church was restored)."

In the same paper it is also stated that formerly at the church of Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire, *The Whole Duty of Man*, a folio, printed at the sign of the Bible in Chancery-lane, 1687, was chained upon a desk near the altar. Also that seventy years ago a *Welsh Bible* was chained to a lectern in the church of Llanfihangel, above New Radnor.

(Signed) ASKEW ROBERTS.

—(*The Antiquary*, Vol. IV., November 22nd, 1873.)

None of the above are mentioned in *Miscellanies*.

Dr. J. Stephens contributes the next note upon the chained books at St. Mary Bourne, Hants. This note has already been quoted in a previous issue of *The Library* (Vol. III. p. 272).

Mr. W. S. Longman contributes a short extract from Timbs' *Curiosities of London*, upon the seven chained books at St. Andrews Undershaf, Leadenhall Street. These are fully described by Mr. Blades.

The following account of a chained Bible at Lingfield is more interesting because it is not mentioned in *Miscellanies*.

"LINGFIELD : SURREY.—I have been told by a person who saw it there a few years ago, that there was an old black letter Bible in the church of Lingfield, in Surrey, and also the chain belonging to it, and I believe that it is still preserved there. The church itself is a Perpendicular building, and was made collegiate in 1431 ; the original foundation being for 'certain clerks of the Carthusian order.'"

(Signed) JOHN H. HOOPER.

The next note by Mr. R. E. Way refers to chained books at Wrington, Somerset. These are fully noticed in *Miscellanies*.

(*The Antiquary*, Vol. IV., November 22nd, 1873.)

In the succeeding number of *The Antiquary* Mr. Jethro A. Cossins, to whom I am indebted for reference to *The Antiquary*, directs attention to the chained books at Wooton Wawen, Warwickshire, and quotes Hannett's *Forest of Arden* and *British Mag.*, X., 391.

This library was known to Mr. Blades. The note, however, contains another reference not to be found in *Miscellanies*.

"WINSHAM CHURCH, SOMERSET.—There was in Winsham Church, Somerset, about six years ago, and may be still, a volume of Fox's *Book of Martyrs* chained to a desk in the middle of the nave."

NEWCASTLE, ALL SAINTS'.—In Brand's *History of Newcastle* is the following :—"Books chained in the choirs, and other convenient places where the parishioners might come and read them, constituted the ancient libraries of our churches. A.D. 1631. Mention occurs of books chained in the choir of the church of All Saints', where they were placed, undoubtedly for the general use of the parishioners." In a note he adds :—"A.D. 1774 I observe such a collection in the great church at Abingdon, in Berkshire."

(Signed) E. THOMPSON.

Newcastle is not mentioned by Mr. Blades, but Abingdon is mentioned.

The following references are selected from *Notes and Queries*, Dec. 17th, 1853 :—

"MIGGENHALL : ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.—Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*, *Book of Homilies* and *The Bible* (W. N. B.)." (Not mentioned by Mr. Blades.)

"BROMSGROVE : WORCESTER.—*A Sermon*, by Bishop Jewel, 1609." (Known to Mr. Blades.)

"SUCKLEY : WORCESTER.—*Homilies*, 1578 (Cuthbert Bede)." (Known to Mr. Blades.)

"LUTON : BEDS.—Foxe's *Monuments* (Mackenzie Walcott). (Known to Mr. Blades.)

W.R.C.—*The Antiquary*, Vol. IV., Dec. 13th, 1873.

The following can be added to the list :—

"FAIRFORD : GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—A book of Homilies, with Common Prayer.

"ST. MARY'S MINSTER : ISLE OF THANET.—Fragments of a Bible."

The Fairford book appears not to have been known, and that at Minster to have been known to Mr. Blades. In Dr. William's library, Grafton Street, are several books which were formerly chained to desks for public perusal. (Signed) W. R. COOPER.—*The Antiquary*, Vol. IV., Dec. 13th, 1873.

From private sources I have been informed that chained books have been seen within the last ten years at Teddington, Worcestershire, and at Bosbury, Herefordshire, but the latter appears a doubtful case.

BOSBURY, HEREFORD.—A visitor to the church in 1880 "noticed a lectern at the east end of the south aisle or transept of Bosbury Church, and believed there were chained books upon it." In reply to a note addressed to the vicar, I have received the following information, dated July 18th, 1891 :—

"Our lectern is still preserved and used by me. I see on it no marks whatever of any chains or of anything that would show that a chained book had been attached to it. I should say that the date of the lectern is Jacobean."

It is quite within the range of possibility that this lectern was used for chained books in the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries, and that the chains were attached to the "leg" of the lectern by means of a ring,

which could be removed without injury to the lectern and without leaving any trace of its former position. But I have not seen the lectern, so cannot give a decided opinion.

TREDINGTON, WARWICKSHIRE.—There were, I am told, two chained books in Tredington Church. In answer to an inquiry the Rector (the Rev. R. E. Williams, M.A.) writes :—

*"Tredington Rectory, Shipston-on-Stour,
August 17th, 1891.*

"In our church there is a lectern of wood, with a swing top ; two chains of different patterns hang down from opposite sides, and both are too short to reach across a book to the top of the lectern, therefore the two upper partitions have been removed. The books now on the lectern are on one side, 'Sermons and Homilies,' printed by R. N. and J. N. for Richard Whitaker, and are to be sold at his shop at the King's Arms, in St. Paul's Churchyard, 1640. At the end of the volume the name John Norton is given in full as that of the printer. This book is bound in paper boards and leather. The other book is a collection of Bishop Jewel's works, printed by John Norton, 1611. It is bound in wood boards covered with leather, now much decayed. The first few pages are lost. I can find no record when and by whom the books were presented, nor do I know that they were ever actually chained. It is quite possible they were placed there in lieu of others destroyed or removed in the troublous times preceding the restoration of the Stuarts."

For my last note on chained books I am indebted to W. W. Morrell, Esq. Probably the chained volume at Rossington is an unique instance of a dictionary being chained in a church.

From *The Founders of New Plymouth*, the Parent Colony of New England, by the (late) Rev. Joseph Harter, p. 109 :—

"Robert Bradford, uncle of Governor Bradford, left to Tho. Silvester, clerk of Alkley, the tuition of his daughter Mary.' This T. Silvester was a divine living at Alkley, which is eastward from Austerfield. His will was made in 1615, and it appears by it that he was possessed of a fair estate, and also, what is more to our purpose, of a library of English and Latin books, at a time when in country places in England books were exceedingly few. This collection of books—religious books probably—in the hands of a friend of the family living near them, was perhaps a treasure of instruction to the Governor in his youth. We may notice as a trait of the times that he gives to the poor scholars of the Grammar School at Rossington his Cooper's Dictionary, to be chained to a stall in the church, and used by them as long as it will last!"

W. SALT BRASSINGTON, F.S.A.



Centenary of Stirling's Library.

THE Centenary of this well-known Glasgow Library was celebrated on Monday, 14th December, 1891, by a public meeting in the Banqueting Hall of the Municipal Buildings.

Lord Balfour, of Burleigh, presided, and fully five hundred persons attended. Amongst those on the platform were the Rev. Professor Dickson, Sir Michael Connal, Sir James King, who, as Lord Provost, welcomed the Library Association to the city in 1887, Mr. Donald McCorquodale, Mr. Ferguson, the Secretary of Stirling's Library, Mr. Barrett, looking cheerfully conscious that the opening of the new Mitchell Library is an accomplished fact, Mr. Mason, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, late Librarian of Stirling's Library, and Mr. Wm. Hutton, his successor.

Lord Balfour, in an excellent speech, commended the work of the Library, and called upon the citizens to adopt the Public Libraries Act, and thus place all the libraries in Glasgow on a proper footing. This was the line followed by Prof. Dickson and several other speakers, who strongly advocated the adoption of the Act. Mr. J. B. Murdoch (one of the directors) gave some extracts from an account of the Library, and Sir Michael Connal recalled some of the early directors of the Library, and the state of literary Glasgow at the time of its foundation. We hope that both these addresses will be given in full in the Report of the Centenary, which we understand the directors are having prepared.

Sir John Stirling Maxwell proposed a resolution congratulating the directors on the attainment, by the Library, of its hundredth year. This was seconded by Prof. George Buchanan, and supported by Mr. Thomas Mason, who had a warm welcome from the audience. After the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman the meeting concluded.

Stirling's Library was founded in 1791 by Walter Stirling, a merchant in Glasgow, and related to a good family. He spent

a quiet, retired life, and, as Mr. Mason observes, "but for his generous bequest would, doubtless, have sunk into that oblivion which has enshrouded many another eminently respectable citizen."

On 3rd January, 1785, Mr. Stirling executed a will bequeathing one thousand pounds, his house in Miller Street, his own collection of books, and a share in the Tontine Society, to the City of Glasgow for the purpose of forming and maintaining a public library for the use of the citizens. He left the bulk of his estate to a niece.

Mr. Stirling's personal appearance is thus described by one who remembered him :—"He was a man of pleasing address, and of gentlemanly manners. I remember him with cocked hat, ear curls, and a respectable pigtail." Mr. Stirling was never married. He died on the 17th January, 1791, having attained the ripe age of 68. He desired the library to consist of rare and curious books, rather than of the common and ordinary kinds, and it is said that he hated novels so heartily that he had not read one for forty years. The librarian was to allow all proper persons access to the books for at least three hours each lawful day, and no rule or regulation that might be made was to interfere with the chief or primary view of the donation, viz., "*The constant and perpetual existence of a public library for the citizens of Glasgow.*"

At their first meeting the directors ordered an inventory to be made of the books left by the founder. They were found to number 804, and were valued at £160. A list of them is given in the first catalogue (issued in 1792). A copy of this catalogue is in the library, and is probably the only copy existing.

The inadequacy of the bequest embarrassed the directors, and they therefore set themselves with vigour to consider what means might be adopted to enable them to carry out the wishes of the founder. They amended the constitution, among other alterations inserting a clause authorizing the lending out of books to subscribers.

One of the early directors was Dr. Alex. Ranken, of the Ramshorn Church. He was the author of a *History of France* in nine volumes, regarding which a good story is told. Wishing to test the popularity of the work, he one day made the following inquiry of Mr. Pate, the second librarian of Stirling's library :—"Pray, Mr. Pate, is Ranken's *History of France* in?" "It never was out," was the prompt and sarcastic reply.

The library pursued the even tenor of its way until 1848, when it was made more popular by the admission of annual subscribers, and the addition of directors elected by the subscribers. In 1881, Mr. Mason was appointed librarian, and during his term of office he re-arranged and re-catalogued the library. Under his *régime* the number of subscribing members was more than doubled, and the number of books issued increased from 25,000 per annum to nearly 200,000. This good record is being well continued by his successor, Mr. Wm. Hutton.

The library, like many another good institution, has been much hampered by insufficient funds, but we are glad to say that the debt is being rapidly cleared off.

In concluding his notice of the Library in his *Libraries of Glasgow*, Mr. Mason says:—"In the history of Stirling's Library there are, without doubt, disappointing features, but also many creditable and pleasing ones. Many of Glasgow's ablest citizens have spent much time and labour, and some of them money, to further the objects of its founder.

"When Walter Stirling died, and for many a long day after, very old-fashioned notions prevailed in library administration. Those were not the days of library associations, and every custodian dealt with his charge according to his own fancy and personal convenience. The library was established, the books were there, the terms were made public, and the institution was then left to live or die, as accident or a capricious public might determine." We need not wonder, therefore, that Stirling's was not, at first, so vigorously conducted as it is now. This library, in common with the Mitchell and Baillie Libraries, has a great future before it; and the sooner the citizens of Glasgow adopt the Libraries Act the sooner will they fully develop from the nucleus of these valuable institutions a great Civic Library worthy of their renowned city.



3ottings.

This number completes the third volume of *The Library*, and as a considerable portion of the fourth volume is already in type, there is no indication that it is likely to die just yet. The *third* is regarded by publishers of periodicals as the *test year* of a new venture, and it is believed that it has "come to stay" if it survives that test. So in the full confidence of prophecy we feel that in wishing our readers "a happy new year," we may safely count on receiving our share of the good things 1892 has in store. But we begin this year of grace under new conditions. Most of our readers will probably have observed that the magazine is no longer published by Mr. Stock. To that gentleman's enterprise much of the early success of the magazine was undoubtedly due, and we are glad to have this opportunity of cordially acknowledging his services. But Mr. Stock is a business man, and to a business man the final test of success is £ s. d. We do not suppose we shall surprise anyone if we frankly confess that *The Library* does not pay in a strictly commercial sense. We have been told that some of the younger members of the Library Association fancy that the favourite relaxation of the Editor of *The Library* is to roll among the heaps of gold which that valuable property showers upon him, but we can most honestly assure them this is not the case.

When we started *The Library* we did so in the belief that such a magazine was wanted by that small public whose active interest in the library movement, and in library management was equal to the strain of a small annual subscription, and we hoped it would at least be sufficiently supported to pay its expenses. Under Mr. Stock's management it has done so, but has not yielded that profit which a business man is entitled to receive, and so our connection with him ceases. But while we do not look for profit we think we have a right to expect that those who desire the continuance of the magazine should help us to make ends meet. There is no doubt we shall lose greatly by the want of Mr. Stock's management and business methods, and this loss can only be retrieved by the help of our friends. We do not ask anyone to canvass, but we do ask that they will give us a friendly word now and then as opportunity offers that may result in the adhesion of a new reader. It does not seem a difficult thing to get *one subscriber* for the coming year, and yet if each of our readers would accomplish this we should be freed from anxiety for the future.

That Librarianship will some day rank as one of the liberal professions we think we are justified in believing, but we are by no means willing to join with those who clamour for this distinction now. When it *is* a liberal profession there will be no need to protest that it is, for it will be tacitly accepted by all. In the meantime, let those who desire to see that day be careful to comport themselves discreetly and to eschew such practices as would be considered beneath the dignity of a member of one of the liberal professions. We regret to observe, among some librarians, a growing tendency to exploit the newspaper press for the purpose of self-advertisement. The great London dailies are hardly to be used in this way, but it is as easy as it is disgraceful for a self-seeking official to get sufficiently intimate with the penny-a-liners of the small local prints to "inspire" mysterious and "spontaneous" paragraphs, designed to impress simple-minded readers with the inestimable blessing they enjoy in possessing such a heaven-sent genius as their librarian.

They must read these effusions with a swelling indignation and amazement at the obtuseness of a nation which allows such a treasure to blush unseen in a remote parish, when he should be swaying the destinies of the national collections.

We received lately a local newspaper which devoted more than a column to a flatulent eulogy of a member of the "profession." The article was headed by a vulgar portrait of the subject, whose lineage was gravely traced back to the Conqueror, and it was stoutly asserted that in many of the most valuable qualifications of a librarian this modest descendant of the proud Norman was far and away superior to any other librarian.

It is perfectly legitimate and, indeed, laudable to enlist the support of the newspapers with the object of popularising our libraries, but it tends to bring contempt upon librarians as a class when men are found to misuse their connection or influence with the press for the purpose of advertising themselves.

The following paragraph has recently made the round of the newspapers:—

"At the Aston Free Library, Birmingham, the Committee have adopted an unwonted mode of discouraging the patronage of betting and gambling visitors. One morning recently there was scarcely a single daily paper on the tables at that Free Library which did not bear an unsightly black patch. Examination led to the discovery that the carefully obliterated matter invariably related to horse-racing and betting. The explanation is that experience has shown that the room is infested by a low class of betting men, who spend their time in studying these portions of the various newspapers, which they practically monopolise. In despair of finding any other remedy, the librarian has suggested this expedient, and the committee have unanimously resolved to permanently adopt this extreme measure."

Bravo, Aston! You have done a plucky thing that will be remembered when many a showier bit of library work is forgotten. To have quietly discontinued taking newspapers which catered for the betting fraternity might have caused much less fuss, but in avoiding one evil you would have been guilty of an injustice to the respectable readers who wanted the newspapers for their legitimate purpose. We hope other libraries which suffer from the pestilent betting fraternity will not be slow to follow this excellent example, and we shall soon have disposed of one of the most difficult to answer of the many arguments used in opposing the Free Library Movement.

We scarcely think that some of the newspapers which have severely blamed Aston's bold experiment can have seriously considered the difficulty with which the Committee had to deal. It may at first blush look like a retrograde step and smack somewhat of Muscovite methods, but after all it is merely a question of choosing the least of two evils, and we do not think any unprejudiced and thoughtful person will hesitate to affirm that Aston has chosen the least evil. There is no question here of Pecksniffian morality or of a Library Committee attempting to enforce a new ethical code upon its readers. The issue is simply this. Are quiet and respectable ratepayers, who only wish to read the news, to be deprived of their privileges for the sake of a set of selfish loafers, whose only interest in the library and its newspapers is to get for nothing the information they require to enable them to gamble successfully?

Some Committees have not yet learned that it *pays well* to dignify the position of their Librarian, and that to treat him as a mere caretaker is a sure plan for degrading the office to that level. The following is not pretty reading in these days:

"The Committee of the ——— Library had made the following arrangements with the Librarian:—Resolved: That so far as regards the portion of the premises not used for library purposes, Mr. ———'s duties as caretaker

will be to take care of the premises, to keep properly swept, dusted, cleaned, and lighted the Committee rooms, offices, passages, staircases, and other parts of the premises, and the furniture and fittings therein, to light and attend to fires in the Committee rooms and offices, and in using the upper rooms for the purposes of habitation to prevent any annoyance being caused by noise or otherwise to the members and officers of the Corporation and others having business in the said Committee rooms and offices. That in consideration of these duties Mr. — be allowed to occupy the rooms on the top floor free of rent, rates, gas and water."

We are rather unfortunate this year in our report of the Nottingham meeting. Owing to a desire to save the proverbial "ha'p'orth o' tar," the Association this year employed no special reporter, and it was hoped that the local press would do all that was needful.

So far as quantity is concerned the local press did wonderfully well, but it could not be expected that without an intimate knowledge of the Association's work and history they could report the discussions in a satisfactory manner. We have, in consequence, had the greatest difficulty in making up our report, and we regret that many useful and practical remarks on the papers and reports under discussion have been lost altogether. We trust that the experiment tried this year will not be repeated.

Several newspapers have of late been blaming very freely the better-off classes for using the Public Library, and urging that these institutions are meant for the working classes only. This is a stupid mistake. It is difficult enough now to persuade the wealthier classes to tax themselves for the sake of establishing Public Libraries—but how would the difficulty be increased if we were to frankly confess that though they might *provide* the libraries they must not *use* them. We can imagine few agencies better calculated to bring the classes into closer touch with each other than a common interest in a centre of intellectual life and amusement.

A lady borrower in a west-end free library, the other day, refused to pay fines incurred by keeping a book beyond the time allowed, because she had found it impossible to return the book *owing to the illness of one of the brougham horses*. Though she lived but a stone's throw away "Jeames" had not time to bring the books round, and she considered it most unjust to be fined under such extenuating circumstances, and declined to have anything more to do with the institution. The book was one of Ouida's novels.

An assistant in a library was asked recently for Shakespeare's "What will he do with it?"

An inquiry of a newly-fledged librarian as to what system of charging he adopted in connection with the indicator, elicited the naïve reply that they had "no particular system except a penny for the ticket!"

Who can now deny that our Public Libraries are become an essential part of our national life? The British lodging-house keeper admits it, and characteristically hastens to make capital out of the fact. "Within three minutes of the Free Library"—or "Free Library in the next street" are now frequent phrases in advertisements of London lodgings. This is a significant fact that should be borne in mind by agitators and canvassers, when they are endeavouring to persuade lodging-house keepers to vote for the Acts.

LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom.

Held in the University College, Nottingham, on the 16th, 17th and 18th of September, 1891.

SOCIAL FEATURES.

(Tuesday, September 15th.)

THIS most successful meeting may in a sense be said to have commenced on the 15th, for, following the excellent precedent set at Reading, the members of the Association were entertained at a Reception given by the Mayor and the Local Committee in the Castle Art Museum. The chief advantage of this hospitable arrangement is that members who have not seen each other for twelve months are enabled to exchange greetings and are thus ready to begin business punctually on the following day. Previous to the Reading meeting, it was generally an hour or more after the programme time before members got settled down to work on the first day of the Annual Meeting.

On the present occasion the company was received by Mr. Councillor Anderson Brownsword, sheriff of Nottingham; Mr. Alderman Lindley, J.P., chairman of the Free Public Libraries Committee; Mr. Alderman Gripper, and Messrs. Councillors Green, Hornes, Lee, and Wells. The Nottingham Glee Club Quartette Party, Mr. Charles Gerring, Mr. Hooton's Band, and Mr. Albert Richards, A.C.O., contributed the musical portions of the programme in excellent style. The Reception was in every respect thoroughly enjoyable and successful. The opening of the Autumn Exhibition of Pictures had been delayed beyond the usual time as a compliment to the Library Association, and an Exhibition of Art Bookbindings had been specially arranged. The admirably representative collection was brought together by Mr. G. Harry Wallis, F.S.A., the curator, assisted by Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, F.R.H.S., public librarian, and Mr. W. Salt Brassington, F.S.A., one of our members. It covered a period of about five centuries, and included the productions of the best bookbinders of England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, and several Oriental countries. A catalogue had been printed, and was presented to the guests.

(Wednesday, September 16th.)

In the evening the members and their friends were entertained at dinner by the local committee in the Lecture Hall of the Mechanics' Institution. Alderman Lindley, J.P., presided, and Councillor J. A. H. Green occupied the vice-chair.

The first toast after "The Queen" was that of "Literature," which was proposed by Dr. Gow, the head master of the High School, Nottingham.

Chancellor Christie, in responding, said he had spoken so often on these occasions, and proposed the toasts of the members of the Library Association, that he felt absolutely incompetent to speak on any other subject. He had not the gift of speech which belonged to their American friends

by his side, who were always full of information of interest and importance which they were ready to pour forth. Librarians subsisted upon literature, and, therefore, it was a specially suitable toast. It was particularly appropriate in Nottingham, which had been the birthplace of some of the greatest of English writers—need he name the name of Byron? He was of a Nottinghamshire family—his seat was in Nottinghamshire. His (the speaker's) grandfather, who lived in Nottingham, remembered seeing Byron being taken to see a quack doctor named Lavender for the treatment of his leg. He (the speaker) had been very interested in visiting the Nottingham Free Library that morning, and the very intelligent assistant, who was so good as to show him round, showed him a large collection of books relating to Lord Byron and editions of his works. That was a very interesting feature of the library, and any gentleman who had early editions of Byron in their libraries would be able to find whether they were of real value by consulting the Nottingham collection. But not only could Nottinghamshire boast of Byron, but of one of the greatest of living poets. He believed that Phillip James Bailey was a native of Nottingham. He was not one of the most popular poets, but they might say of him, as had been said of another poet :—

His spirit is a home
Of aspiration high,
A temple, whose huge dome
Is even with the sky.

Mr. W. R. Wilkinson (Manchester) also responded, and traced statistically the growth of the free library movement.

A Visitor having proposed the health of the committee and Mr. Briscoe, Ald. Lindley (chairman of the Library Committee and of the meeting) responded.

Mr. J. P. Briscoe acknowledged the cordiality of the reception, and added that, if he did not do his duty by them after their enthusiastic treatment of him he would deserve all that they could inflict upon him at their next meeting. What he had done had been done for the love of the Association. It had indeed been a great labour, but a labour of love.

The Town Clerk also responded. He had, he remarked, heard a great deal about that old gentleman the Town Clerk of Ephesus during the last thirty years, for he had been Town Clerk for nearly thirty years. He was, he believed, contemporaneous in his services to the town with Mr. Briscoe. It had given the town the greatest possible pleasure to have the honour of being selected as the place at which the Annual Meeting of the Library Association was held that year. They were proud to welcome the members of that Association, and to extend to them such hospitality as the town could give. It occurred to them that they might find in that old town, while meeting together for the many purposes which brought them there, that rest and repose which was so necessary before they again took up their useful work. They in Nottingham were glad to extend the right hand of fellowship on all occasions to all sorts and conditions of people meeting for public purposes. He had met in his life with very many persons from the highest—the very next to the throne—down to the lowest working men, and he might say that he had never yet associated with any of the various classes which that kind of gathering brought to the town without finding that there were genial souls and happy spirits among them, and that much information might be gained and prejudice wiped away, and that in the long run the residents of the town would be the gainers rather than the losers. A librarian filled a responsible position. What they wanted in a librarian was a living catalogue. He hoped that they might secure a great growth of the library movement in the future as the happy reward of what they were doing.

The Vice-Chairman said he did not think that in any town in England gentlemen like themselves, the keepers of the wisdom of ages, and it might be, also of some of their folly—could obtain a more cordial welcome than in Nottingham. There was one suggestion that he would like to make. It was that if there was time they should go round the Mechanics' Institution to see whether there might or might not be something they could very well and advantageously see and adopt. It was true that in their libraries, indeed, in each and all of them, they had the calm serenity which was suitable to libraries; but in such circumstances they missed the hum of human conversation such as that which came from the gathering of the young of both sexes in their democratic drawing-room at that place. He wished the time would come when, in all their free libraries throughout the country, would be provided not only accommodation for reading and study, but accommodation of the kind to which he had referred. They were delighted in Nottingham to have the Association with them, and he begged to give them the toast of "Success and Prosperity to the Library Association of the United Kingdom."

The President responded. He observed that now their Association had entered into its teens, and that whilst they had wandered from town to town he hoped they had done some good work. If they were to judge by the kindness with which they were received invariably at their annual meetings, and by the groaning tables and generous hospitality always extended to them, he thought they met with a form of kindness which they were not likely to misunderstand. The President expressed a hope that he might see all of them at the next meeting of their Association.

Mr. Holborn (London), also responding, said that he believed Nottingham had been in the very forefront in the matter of instituting free libraries.

Mr. Mullins (Birmingham) said that the committee having charge of such matters had entrusted him with a toast which it gave him great pleasure to propose. It was that of "Our brethren across the sea." The speaker said that he was very glad they had the presence of Mr. Dewey and Mr. Biscoe, both of America, and that in matters librarian he was not, so far as holidays were concerned, afraid of Americanising English institutions.

Professor Melvil Dewey, responding, said that those present who had received the American delegates with such exceeding kindness ought certainly on their part to go over to the other side of the Atlantic, where they would be similarly sympathetically greeted. Some of the American librarians had gone to the West, to San Francisco, and he was one of those who had come to the East to invite the librarians of their Association of the United Kingdom to join a general International Librarians' Conference at the World's Fair to be held at Chicago in 1893. It was intended to send people over next year to England, and he threatened that there would be issued a writ of *habeas corpus* unless the invitation to Chicago were accepted. It would not be found so difficult a matter to cross the Atlantic as might be imagined. Their library vacation in America was one month per annum as the minimum. Now the point he wished to make was that they could do more work in eleven months of the year than in the whole twelve months. If a man overworked his horse he lost in the transaction.

Mr. Biscoe, also replying, said that when the American delegates came to England they invariably found something both to interest and instruct. They had in America very large library establishments, but they had not the accumulated treasures of this country, and could not at present get them for money. When they visited Nottingham, too, they were astonished, for they had themselves, unlike England, but a com-

paratively small number of large cities. In various directions he did not think they had the occasion of boasting which, as Americans, they often thought they had. He cordially seconded Professor Dewey's invitation as to an English delegation to Chicago.

The toast of "The Press" was proposed by Mr. Tedder (London), and was replied to by Mr. John Derry, editor of *The Nottingham Daily Press*.

In the course of the evening an excellent programme of vocal selections was well rendered by the Nottingham Glee Club quartette, solos being given by Messrs. C. Gerring, H. Matthews, W. Waring, J. M. Bedells, and G. W. Penn. Mr. Arthur Richards acted as accompanist on the pianoforte.

(Thursday, September 17th.)

Early in the afternoon of Thursday, 120 persons attending the meeting assembled at the Great Northern station for the purpose of visiting Belvoir Castle (the local pronunciation "Beever" proved a *crux* to more than our American friends), one of the seats of the Duke of Rutland. After travelling about fifteen miles in Pullman cars Bottesford was reached. A portion of the party visited the fine old church there, which contains some fine monuments of the Rutland family, whilst the others drove to Belvoir—the conveyances returning for the second portion of the party. The first party, under the guidance of Mr. Briscoe (who, by the way, is joint author of the "Guide to Belvoir Castle"), visited the various rooms of the Castle.

Whilst in the Library Mr. Briscoe read a letter he had received from the Duchess of Rutland, in which, after regretting that the time chosen for the L. A. U. K. meeting made it impossible for her husband and herself to be present, she said :

"Among villagers and labourers I have found a real book hunger. There is a subject I would earnestly commend to the consideration of the gentlemen assembled to-day. It is how to provide lists of works that should be instructive without being dull, amusing, but not childish. I find illustrated periodicals like *The Quiver*, *The Leisure Hour*, *The Cottager and Artisan*, *The British Workman*, most eagerly sought for, and much gratitude is due to Messrs. Cassells, Partridge, Ward & Lock, Longman, Blackwood, and other firms, who print excellent works for the people, but I think we need still more. The boon of books to sick hospitals, military and civil, to those in workhouses, cannot be estimated—good books in cheap form, but I lay more stress on the books being good than cheap, for I observe money is generally forthcoming, but the difficulty of choice is great. I have heard that in Switzerland, such lists are issued by Government. I could bring forward many instances of the eagerness for books. In Dunkeld, Perthshire, Miss Anderson for some years has given books to the ploughmen who pass through the town—they take the greatest pleasure in them. They tramp miles to get them, and they lend them to each other. In this immediate neighbourhood Miss Parker lends books to the labourers with the same result, and in Oxfordshire Miss Adela Brooke finds her efforts rewarded by deep gratitude on the part of the men. In domestic establishments I consider it a duty as well as a great pleasure to provide interesting books, and I here commend the subject to the consideration of gentlemen of experience."

Whilst the first party were perambulating the spacious and handsome apartments, Mr. Ogle, of Bootle (formerly of Nottingham) took the party round the beautiful grounds. After the Castle had been visited, the company adjourned to "The Peacock," where luncheon was served.

(Friday, September 18th.)

On Friday morning a large number of our members and delegates, and some of our visitors and some of the Free Library staff assembled before business hours, and were successfully photographed by Messrs. Cox, St. James' Street. Prints of this will form a pleasing memento of a pleasant visit.

Mr. Percy J. Cropper, honorary secretary of the local Mechanics' Institution Library, and Mr. J. T. Radford, librarian of the same library, conducted parties to several lace and hosiery factories and lace dressing rooms, and Mr. Briscoe arranged drives to Wilford and Clifton—places intimately associated with the life and writings of Henry Kirke White, Philip James Bailey, the author of "Festus," and the Howitts, as well as with the stories of "John Deane of Nottingham," by Kingston, and "By the Trent," by Mrs. Oldham; two visits to Newstead Abbey, the home of Byron and the favourite resort of Livingstone and Stanley; and "a week end" in the sylvan glades of "Merrie Sherwood."

BUSINESS MEETINGS.

NOTE.—We greatly regret that our report of this year's meeting is practically a bare record owing to the fact that for the first time the Association did not employ a special reporter. We are entirely indebted for what follows to the local press, but it could not be expected that their reporters would be sufficiently alive to the technical matters discussed to enable them to report them adequately. This is the more regrettable from the fact that the Nottingham meeting was more distinguished for good practical papers and discussions than any other meeting for several years.

FIRST DAY.

(Wednesday, September 16th.)

Punctually at ten o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 16th, the chair was taken by the President, Mr. Robert Harrison, who immediately called upon the Secretaries to read the names of candidates for election proposed since the last ordinary meeting.

The following were then duly elected:—

Sir William Gilstrap, Fornham Park, Bury St. Edmunds.
Arnold Green, 56, Paternoster Row.

B. R. Hill, Librarian, Edward Pease Public Library, Darlington.

Richard Mould, Reference Library, Birmingham.

G. G. Killingley, Librarian, Gilstrap Free Library, Newark-on-Trent.

William Pitt MacConochie, 28, Belitha Villas, N.

James Osborne, Chairman of the Free Library, Aston, near Birmingham.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Free Library (per William Turner, Hon. Sec.).

John Barlow Stuart, J.P., Standishgate, Wigan.

Richard Charles Snape, Thornhill, Standish, near Wigan.

Walter Tomlinson, 3, Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, S.W.

Thomas Reid Wilkinson, The Polygon, Ardwick, Manchester.

Robert Prosser White, King Street, Wigan.

Professor Eadweard Muybridge, University of Pennsylvania.

Miss Proctor, Public Library, Widnes.

Walter Simpson, Longhurst, Haigh, Wigan.

Kineton Parkes, Nicholson Institute, Leek.

W. G. Banting, 258, King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.

Leeds Public Library (per Mr. James Yates the Librarian).

A. W. Kirkaldy, 68, East India Road.

Arthur H. Foord, Royal Dublin Society, Dublin.

He then proceeded to read his

ANNUAL ADDRESS.*

Mr. Chancellor Christie proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his very interesting and able address, one to which, he was sure, they had all felt much pleasure in listening. In having Mr. Harrison for their president, they had one who possessed a very large number of qualifications, which had not always been assured in all past presidents of the Association. They had now one who was himself present at the first conference of librarians, at which this Association had been founded, and there was not one of that body besides Mr. Harrison who had been president, and it was very agreeable, at the end of fourteen years, to find one of the founders of the society presiding over them. They were fortunate also in having one who was himself a man of letters, whose books had interested great numbers, and whose very interesting travels in Russia were published many years since. Referring to the complete and interesting collection of bindings now on view at Nottingham Castle, the speaker remarked that every librarian should take an interest in bindings. They would derive great benefit from the study of them.

Mr. J. D. Mullins (Birmingham) seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. J. Potter Briscoe was then called upon to read a paper on

THE LIBRARIES OF NOTTINGHAM.

He explained that he had not had time to write a formal paper, but he would briefly attempt to go over the ground his paper would have covered. Nottingham, he remarked, was rather a forward town in several respects, and had been specially so in the Free Library movement. About Michaelmas, 1863, the Nottingham Naturalists' Society thought it desirable to establish a public library under the Act of 1855, but the matter lay in abeyance for some long time, and not until about October, 1863, was the Town Council memorialised by that body to call a meeting to adopt the Public Libraries Act. It was not till the end of 1866, however, that anything was done, when it was decided to collect subscriptions to purchase the debt of the Artisans' Library, the committee of which had offered the whole of the library to the town on payment of their debts, amounting to about £120. Opposition meetings were called, and the stock arguments were raised. It was suggested that the rates of the town and the rents of the houses would be raised, but the father of the Library movement in Nottingham, Capt. Starey, attended one of those meetings with Mr. Rothera, a local solicitor, and induced the meeting, raised to oppose the scheme, to decide that it was desirable to adopt the Act. The Library Committee was appointed in July, 1867, and they accepted the offer of the Naturalists' Society, who transferred to them their museum and library. In September, 1867, it was reported to the Town Council that the Artisans' Library had been presented, and they decided to adopt the proposal that the site called the Horse Fair Close should be devoted to the Library. At the next Council meeting the matter was brought before the ratepayers, and the vote was reversed, and instead of a free library, Nottingham had a circus and a horse fair. An Act, however, was passed providing that land held in trust by the Nottingham Corporation might be used for educational purposes, and the result was that in 1881 this site was covered by the University buildings and the library and museum. In 1867, however, a local library had been started in Nottingham. The late Mr. M. Preston, then Sheriff of the town, was prominent

See Library for October, page 333.

in the work, and a good catalogue was published in 1872. The first librarian came from Manchester, and shortly afterwards left. Another Lancashire man came, and in August, 1869, he (the speaker) was appointed, and he had been in the town now for over twenty-two years. On Easter Monday, 1867, the library was opened. There were about 400 applications for membership, and the town seemed to take kindly to the movement. The library was of very modest dimensions. The lending library contained about 8,000 volumes, but in 1870 a reference library was formed. Much interest was now being taken in the question of whether libraries spread contagion. During the small-pox epidemic of 1872 the library was closed, and the books and the librarian were disinfected. If such an epidemic should again prevail in Nottingham, and the library needed disinfection, he would be glad to hear of a good appointment elsewhere. The whole borough was now pretty well covered by the reading-room and library, and its branches. It had been felt that a connecting link was wanted between the elementary school and the free library, so the children's library was established, and the matter laid before Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., and he gave £500 to establish a children's library. In this matter Nottingham deserved some credit. It was the first children's library formed in a building complete in itself with a separate staff and catalogue. He was glad that this question had been brought before the Association, and children's libraries had been formed at Reading and elsewhere, and children's libraries had been established in nearly all the public libraries of this town. The Public Library contained nearly 500 volumes of music, which circulated very extensively. He thought Nottingham had given impetus to this movement in the Midlands. There was also a collection of books for the blind, and blind people were coming from several miles round to borrow them. In the reference library there was a tolerably good representative collection which had been compiled from 60 or 70 reports by experts in various departments in Nottingham. In conclusion, he was very pleased to welcome his brethren and sisters of the Association to Nottingham, and he hoped they would have a pleasant time.

On the motion of the President, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Briscoe for his paper.

The next paper was read by Mr. Percy Cropper, Hon. Secretary of the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution Library, on

THE LIBRARY OF THE NOTTINGHAM MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

The President alluded to the interesting and practical character of the paper, and moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Cropper.

Mr. Christie, in seconding the proposal, which was heartily agreed to, referred to his former connection with the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution, of which he was a member in 1845-6.

The next paper, on

SOME NEW PHASES OF BOOK ILLUSTRATION,

by Mr. Alfred Dawson, was, owing to the absence of the author, taken as read (see p. 433).

The next paper read (see *Library* for November, p. 401) was,

THE PLACE OF THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN POPULAR EDUCATION,

by Mr. J. J. Ogle, Librarian of the Bootle Public Library. A discussion followed, and, upon the motion of Mr. Councillor Southern, Chairman of the Manchester Public Libraries, seconded by Mr. Pink, Librarian of the Cambridge Libraries, Mr. Ogle was thanked for his paper.

Mr. Ogle was followed by Mr. Robert K. Dent, Librarian of the Aston Public Library, who read a paper (see *Library* for October, p. 408) entitled:

"GNATS": OR, THE LITTLE WORRIES OF LIBRARY WORK.

Professor Melvil Dewey, of New York, said he thought that there was every reason for satisfaction with the progress of the Library Movement during recent years. As to the much-discussed need of improving the salaries of librarians, he thought the real problem might be the improvement of the librarians to a point where the salaries would take care of themselves. If the members of the Library Association did such good work as to make the whole town value them, and to draw more people of importance to the towns because of the good library, it would be found wise even to pay a salary of £1000 a year to retain men of that sort; for shrewd managers in other towns would offer high salaries to the man who had proved his ability to make a town distinctly more desirable as a residence. In America, if there was a vacancy for a librarian, there would be hundreds of candidates; but these candidates were of the old type of librarian, and when he thought of how much might have been done, and of how little the old-type librarian really did, he often felt that his beggarly salary was, after all, enough. But of the modern librarian who does the highest work, the supply was far below the demand. In evidence, the salaries offered to the graduates of the Library School showed an increase of fifty per cent. in the past few years. Speaking of the difficulties with regard to the cataloguing of the names of married women, Mr. Perkins had proposed at a meeting of the Association fourteen years ago that no woman should be married after she had written a book. He (the speaker) thought that the system of library examinations should be encouraged, and he foresaw that in America they would do much in that direction towards crowding out the incompetents. No man was admitted in New York to the legal or medical professions unless he had a certificate from the University of a certain amount of preliminary education, and sometimes out of 100 candidates over 50 were rejected. At the close of their studies a second examination showed their qualifications. He hoped the American and English Associations might work in unison to the extent that by conferences between the two Associations they might come to a general understanding as to standards, and might maintain the standards between the two countries. The modern librarian in America fully believed that the library was the centre of educational work outside the work of the college and university, and in the new work of university extension it was so recognized as the real "hub" about which the museum, lectures, art galleries, and all the influences for higher culture and education should go on, and be, in fact, the real people's university.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Dent for his paper, and the meeting was adjourned for luncheon.

At 2 p.m. the sitting was resumed, and in the absence of the author, Mr. MacAlister was called upon to read a paper (see *Library* for November, p. 414) by Dr. Richard Garnett, Keeper of the printed books in the British Museum, entitled

THE SLIDING PRESS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

A vote of thanks was given to Dr. Garnett for his paper, and Mr. J. D. Brown, librarian of the Clerkenwell Public Library, was called upon to read his Report (see *Library* for October, p. 381), prepared by request of the Council, on

RECENT LIBRARY APPLIANCES.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright, librarian of the Plymouth Public Libraries, referring to the suggestion of Mr. Brown as to the formation of a museum of library appliances, said that the idea was a most admirable one, and

one for which he had been fighting for many years. He mentioned that in the Plymouth Library there was a novel and convenient sort of indicator, which had not been mentioned in the paper, and of which he would send a model for the proposed museum.

Prof. Melvil Dewey having been asked to explain the charging system in vogue in America, said that as he had to sail for America in about three weeks it would be impossible for him to do so. If he were to attempt it they would have to make the present sitting continue until Christmas. They had not hitherto gone in for indicators, but he was inclined to think they would in time come to use them, for the books in most constant demand. Great stress was laid on personal relations with readers, and the indicator, in many cases, seemed to separate readers from the librarians who might give them the help they needed. He was profoundly impressed with the practical character of this meeting, and of the papers read. Such discussions would be of the greatest service to the libraries both of England and America. It would be well if the two countries could work together and utilise each other's experience. People who won great success had learnt to organise, to work and pull together. He urged the necessity of all possible perfection in the machinery of a library, on the ground that when a scholar came for a special purpose the librarian should distract his attention from the work as little as possible. However enjoyable mousing among books might be in moments of leisure it was a nuisance to an earnest student to be compelled to look over endless volumes or lists hoping to find something to his present purpose. Nor should his attention be distracted by other matters, least of all by anything pertaining to the administration. The best library system was like the best window glass—a thing one did not see at all. Except for the perfect protection from the cold one hardly believed the glass was there. It might be harassing to many librarians to attend to these little mechanical contrivances, when they would much rather be cultivating their own minds. But they were the servants of the reading public. It was their profession, *Noblesse oblige*. Let others find it easy to work and acquire knowledge, because they had done so much and so well.

The meeting unanimously passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Brown for his valuable Report, and then adjourned.

SECOND DAY.

(Thursday, September 17th.)

The first paper was read by Mr. W. A. Copinger, of Manchester :

ON THE NECESSITY FOR A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS OPERATIONS.

The paper was discussed by the President, who said he would gladly support a society founded on the lines proposed by Mr. Copinger, if it directed its operations to publishing work.

Messrs. Christie, Davis, Mason, Ogle, Sayle, and Tedder also spoke, and a unanimous vote of thanks was awarded to Mr. Copinger.

Mr. Joseph Gilbert, Librarian of the British Library, Cockspur Street, read a paper on

SOME LIBRARIAN-MADE BOOKS AND TITLES.

Thanks were accorded to Mr. Gilbert for his paper, and Mr. W. H. K. Wright, Librarian of the Public Libraries, Plymouth, was called upon to read a paper entitled

SOME UNPROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS OF LIBRARIANS.

In the discussion which followed, the President and Messrs. Christie, Cowell, Davis, Foskett, Herne, May, and Tedder took part, and Mr. Wright was thanked for his paper.

The last paper of the day was by Mr. Talbot Baines Reed,

ON THE USE AND CLASSIFICATION OF A TYPOGRAPHICAL LIBRARY.

The President and Mr. Tedder briefly discussed the paper, and upon their motion a vote of thanks was accorded to the author, and the meeting adjourned until the evening.

EVENING SITTING.

At 8.30 the President took the chair, and called upon the secretaries to read

THE REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Report (see *Library* for October, p. 365), which included the Treasurer's Financial Statement, was discussed and adopted.

Mr. F. J. Burgoyne moved a resolution of which he had given notice, viz :

"That Law IX. of the Constitution be so altered that there shall be *twelve* London Members of Council *instead of eight* as at present."

This was seconded by Mr. J. J. Ogle. On the motion of Mr. W. H. K. Wright, Mr. Burgoyne accepted an addition to his resolution which would have the effect of increasing the country members of Council from twelve to twenty.

After some discussion the resolution was carried.

A question arose as to whether this change in the law should have immediate effect, and the Chairman was called upon to rule that it should.

Mr. MacAlister pointed out that this would clash with another rule under which all the nominations for the present election had been already handed in and could not now be legally amended—he would therefore move

"That the election of Officers and Council for this year be held in accordance with the old Constitution, and that the Council be empowered to fill up the new vacancies created by Mr. Burgoyne's resolution."

This was carried unanimously.

REPORT ON EXAMINATIONS.

The Report of the Committee on Examinations (see *Library* for October, p. 375) was then read and its adoption moved by Mr. Peter Cowell, Librarian of the Liverpool Public Libraries, and seconded by Mr. Butler Wood, Librarian of the Bradford Public Library.

After some discussion, during which some verbal amendments were approved of, the Report was unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED BENEFIT FUND.

Mr. George Campbell, J.P. (Wigan), moved

"That the Council be instructed to submit to the next conference a report as to the desirableness and practicability of establishing a system whereby provision may be made for members in sickness and old age, and to ensure a sum to be paid at death."

Mr. MacAlister seconded the motion, which was carried.

A PROTEST.

Councillor Abbot, Manchester, then moved the following resolution :—

"That this Congress of members of the Library Association of the United Kingdom and delegates from municipal bodies throughout the country records

its distinct condemnation of the leaflet issued by the Liberty and Property Defence League, designed to prevent the adoption of the Libraries Acts; and protests against its circulation as an unfair treatment of the question, misleading in statement, and altogether calculated to prejudice a popular vote, thus retarding the intellectual development of our countrymen."

Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Meeting adjourned at 10.45 p.m.

THIRD DAY.

(*Friday, September 18th.*)

The meeting was resumed punctually at ten o'clock, the President (Mr. Robert Harrison) occupying the chair. The attendance was much larger than on the previous day, the ballot for the election of officers and council taking place between ten o'clock and half-past ten. While the votes were being counted the reading of papers was proceeded with.

Mr. Frank J. Burgoyne, Librarian of Lambeth Public Libraries, submitted a report which he had prepared by request of the Council,

ON RECENT PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS.

He said that the report was not as complete as he could wish, as several librarians had neglected to answer his letters asking for plans and information. He feared the only way to make a perfect report would be for them to appoint a travelling commissioner at a handsome salary, whose duty it would be to visit all new buildings and report upon them each year. After referring to the various libraries recently constructed, the speaker said that in looking over the plans of the new libraries he had been struck with the rapid advance in favour of the stack system of shelving, in preference to wall bookcases. His personal preference was in favour of the stack system, which seemed to him to have great economy of space and of assistants' time in serving to recommend it; while the other had the doubtful recommendation of being more pleasing to the eye of the casual visitor. The electric light was now in use in many of their large libraries, and was without question the best light that could be obtained at present. In conclusion, he would urge upon library committees the advisability of obtaining sites really large enough for the purpose and with good light.

Mr. Burgoyne was heartily thanked for his paper.

A REPORT ON RECENT LIBRARY REPORTS,

prepared by Mr. Charles Madeley, Librarian of the Warrington Public Library, was taken as read (See *Library* for October, p. 398).

A paper was then read by Mr. John Ballinger, Librarian of the Cardiff Free Library, on

FREE LIBRARIES AND THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF COUNTIES.

This paper (see page 436) produced a useful discussion, and, on the motion of Mr. R. K. Dent, seconded by Mr. Cecil Davis, a unanimous vote of thanks was accorded to the author.

A short paper followed, by Mr. A. W. Robertson, librarian of the Aberdeen Public Library, on

FINES FOR THE DAMAGE OF BOOKS.

In the discussion which followed Mr. Buckland (Stockport) said that the borrowers were not the only offenders as regards the damage done to books, and he thought that there ought to be a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Books. He had heard of a principal librarian turning over the leaves by licking his thumb.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright related an extraordinary case of damage by embellishment. On one occasion a three volume novel, by Victor Hugo, was brought back to him with most artistic designs at the head and foot of every chapter, appropriate to the story. He placed the book in his museum.

Professor Melvil Dewey said that they had librarians in America much worse than the one that licked his thumb. When he was being shown a reading-room, which he believed ought to be kept sacred for the purposes of study, he heard a principal librarian explaining the features of the room in a much louder voice than was used by those now addressing the meeting. It was much worse than wetting the thumb, for it made it simply impossible for any student with nerves to continue his study, and the man who was making the disturbance was the man who was paid to keep order.

The President: I think we could produce several such men.

Mr. R. K. Dent said that he had a borrower who brought a book back with wet mud at the end of the leaves, and he declared that it was done before he had the book.

A unanimous vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Robertson.

The next paper on the programme was by Mr. MacAlister (*Hon. Sec.*),

CAN MUDIE HELP THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES?

but in view of the lateness of the hour and the amount of business to be got through, he desired to withdraw it and bring it up for discussion at a monthly meeting.

Mr. H. R. Plomer then read a paper on

LOCAL RECORDS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

In the course of a brief discussion several members said they were not so sanguine as Mr. Plomer that the clergy and corporate bodies would give the information necessary to carry out his suggestions.

Mr. J. Potter Briscoe (Nottingham) said Nottingham possessed one of the most valuable sets of local records of any town in the country. They were bound in four handsome volumes, and he mentioned the matter as an encouragement to other towns.

A vote of thanks was then accorded to the author.

The next paper, by Mr. Butler Wood, Librarian of the Bradford Public Library, entitled

THREE SPECIAL FEATURES OF FREE LIBRARY WORK,

was then read, and led to a prolonged discussion, in which the following gentlemen took part:—Messrs. Formby, Mason, Dent, Pink, Lancaster, Davis, Doubleday, Wright, Ward and Ballinger. A hearty vote of thanks was then given to Mr. Butler Wood.

Mr. W. E. Doubleday, Librarian of the St. Marylebone (*Voluntary*) Public Libraries, then read a paper on

A YEAR'S DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN GREATER LONDON.

He said that in the contests during the year there had been nine successes and seven failures. It thus ranked in point of successes second only to the memorable year of Her Majesty's Jubilee. In other directions the year had been a busy and successful one.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Doubleday concluded the programme of papers, as the last, by Mr. E. M. Borrajo, of the Guildhall Library,

THE MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES OF PARIS,

had to be taken as read, in the absence of the author.

The result of the Ballot for Officers and Council for the ensuing year was then announced.

The Presidency was left vacant to be filled up by the Council when the place of next Annual Meeting had been decided upon.

Vice-Presidents.—F. T. Barrett, Librarian, Mitchell Library, Glasgow; John Potter Briscoe, Librarian, Free Public Libraries, Nottingham; George Bullen, LL.D., Late Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum; P. Cowell, Librarian, Free Public Libraries, Liverpool; R. Garnett, LL.D., Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum; W. Lane Joynt, D.L., Dublin; J. D. Mullins, Librarian, Free Libraries, Birmingham; William I. Palmer, J.P., Chairman of the Public Library Committee, Reading. John Plant, Librarian, Public Libraries, Salford; C. W. Sutton, Librarian, Free Libraries, Manchester; Sam Timmins, Member of Birmingham Free Libraries' Committee; Chas. Welch, Librarian, Guildhall Library, London.

London Members of Council.—J. B. Bailey, Librarian, Royal College of Surgeons; J. D. Brown, Librarian, Public Library, Clerkenwell; F. J. Burgoyne, Librarian, Free Libraries, Lambeth; Cecil T. Davis, Librarian, Free Library, Wandsworth; W. Ralph Douthwaite, Librarian, Gray's Inn; L. Inkster, Librarian, Free Libraries, Battersea; Prof. Sir Frederick Pollock, Bart.; J. H. Quinn, Librarian, Public Libraries, Chelsea.

Country Members of Council.—W. Archer, Librarian, National Library, Dublin; Alderman W. H. Baily, Summerfield, Eccles, New Road, Salford; John Ballinger, Librarian, Public Library, Cardiff; H. T. Folkard, Librarian, Free Public Library, Wigan; T. W. Hand, Librarian, Public Library, Oldham; T. G. Law, Librarian, Signet Library, Edinburgh; C. Madeley, Librarian, The Museum, Warrington; W. May, Librarian, Free Public Library, Birkenhead; J. J. Ogle, Librarian, Free Public Library, Bootle; Councillor H. Rawson, Earlswood, Eccles, Manchester; W. H. K. Wright, Librarian Free Public Library, Plymouth.

Treasurer.—H. R. Tedder, F.S.A., Librarian of the Athenæum.

Hon. Secretaries.—J. Y. W. MacAlister, F.S.A., Librarian of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, London; Thomas Mason, Librarian of the Public Library of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

Auditors.—T. J. Agar, C.A., 9, Bucklersbury, E.C.; G. R. Humphery, Deptford.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The President then moved that a cordial vote of thanks be presented to the authorities of the University College, and this was seconded by Mr. Sutton, and carried with acclamation.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright moved that the Castle Art Museum Committee be thanked for arranging such an admirable exhibition, and for placing at their disposal their suite of rooms.

Mr. Archer seconded the motion, which was most cordially carried.

Mr. Ballinger moved that the thanks of the meeting be given to the Local Reception Committee, whose labours, he said, had made an impression upon every member who had had the pleasure of attending that Conference.

Mr. Ward seconded, and it was heartily carried.

On the motion of Mr. MacAlister, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Briscoe, the local secretary, for the capital way in which he had carried out all the arrangements.

Mr. Briscoe briefly replied, and promised to convey the other votes to the proper quarters.

Votes of thanks were also passed to the President and to the Hon. Secretaries (Messrs. MacAlister and Mason).

Professor Melvil Dewey said that he had been commissioned by the American Library Association to bring a matter of importance before them. There had never been at a world's fair any proper exhibition of library work. The American Association wished to have one at the Chicago World's Fair, and wanted the co-operation of the English Association. It would be of great value and would pay directly and indirectly

and in many ways. There would be an exhibition of the progress of library work in all countries and states. The directors of the fair had promised to afford opportunity for this. Money and books had already been promised, and the exhibition would be of value here and on the Continent, as well as in Chicago and America. Plans of library work would be exhibited, and a special feature would be made of a model library, showing the progress and development of the work. In conclusion, the speaker urged the advisability of more united work between the English and American associations. There was a permanent library exhibition at Albany, and there should be one in London, and on all points a sort of federation of the societies would be of great value.

The President on behalf of the Association assured Mr. Dewey that their American brethren might count upon hearty co-operation upon this side of the Atlantic.

On the motion of the President a very cordial vote of thanks was offered to the American Library Association, and particularly to those representatives of it, Professor Dewey, Miss Cutler, Mr. Biscoe, and Miss Bunnell, who had attended the meeting.

This concluded the business of the Fourteenth Annual Meeting.

With the view of making the Nottingham meeting as practical in its character as possible, Mr. Biscoe, assisted by Messrs. Brown and Radford, brought together the most extensive collection of objects of especial interest to librarians which has ever been arranged in connection with the meetings of the Association. This was placed in the large examination room of the University College, next to the Free Public Reference Library. It comprised portraits of persons associated with national and local library work; elevations and plans of library buildings; bookcases; library desks, ladders, chairs, tables; shelf and other fittings; indicators; newspaper stands and newspaper holders; periodical racks; book supports; specimen pages of library catalogues, and of fine and library bindings from various binders; a portable electric lamp suitable for libraries; boxes for specifications of patents, pamphlets, and newspapers; type-writers in operation; copying processes; stationery; card catalogue cabinets; library forms, &c. There was also brought together a specially-formed collection of library book-plates, the contribution of Mr. Wright, borough librarian of Plymouth, and founder of "The Ex Libris Society." The exhibition of library appliances was a great attraction to our members, and particularly so to our eminently practical American visitors.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

ABERDEEN.—Dr. Francis Edmond, of this city, has just presented to the Public Library the entire library of his late son, George Edmond, containing over 1,100 volumes in very fine condition, and several of them rare, together with the oak bookcases made for them.

ABERFELDY.—On Saturday evening, Dec. 5th, Sir Donald Currie, M.P., formally opened the new Public Library and Reading and Recreation Rooms in the Town-Hall buildings, in presence of a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen. The proceedings throughout were of a most enthusiastic nature, and the Association is to be congratulated on the success which has attended their efforts in providing for and supplying a long-felt want in the town. Mr. James M'Kerchar, banker, presided.

BRISTOL.—The *Bristol Mercury* of December 14th contained an interesting article on "The Free Libraries and Museums of Birmingham," by Mr. E. R. Norris Mathews, librarian of the Bristol Museum and Library. The writer strongly urges the importance of establishing museums wherever there are libraries, and argues that one is incomplete without the other. He points out that the people of Bristol have it in their power to establish a great Museum and Reference Library equal to the great institutions of Birmingham.

We observe that Mr. Mathews has been entrusted with the revision of Messrs. Black's *Guide to the County of Gloucestershire*.

CAMBRIDGE.—Reports or other communications intended for the Free Public Library should be so addressed; if directed to the "Public Library," they are delivered at the University Library.

DARWEN.—The Public Free Library and Technical School Committees of the Town Council have decided to erect a building upon a plot of land in Knott Street and Union Street, Darwen, for the joint purposes of a Public Library and a Technical School, at a cost not exceeding £8,000. The building will consist of three floors, the first for technical instruction, the second for the Library, and the third for art classes. Competition designs have been solicited, to be delivered not later than February 15th next. The Library and Technical School will each, owing to the position of the ground, have a separate street entrance. The Library will be designed to hold 40,000 volumes, with Reference and Reading Rooms, and special rooms for ladies and for boys.

LEEK.—"The Book Club," which was established some six months ago in connection with the Public Free Library of Leek, has now made for itself a recognised position among the educational institutions of the town. For a subscription of five shillings a year members enjoy the privilege of access to the more important of the new books of the day in all classes of literature as they issue from the publishers' hands. The volumes now belonging to the club number over a hundred, and recently several important additions have been made to the stock. Encouraged by the success of the Book Club, the committee have decided to embark on a further development of the system, which will render it equally valuable with any circulating library, and at one-third the cost, by introducing magazines. The magazine subscription is half-a-crown a year, and for this members are able to read at home the best of the more expensive monthly periodicals, and exchange them as often as required. It is not intended to include the magazines already taken in at the Institute, but to subscribe for various English, American, French, and German periodicals which contain contributions from the pens of the foremost writers on art, literature, science, and politics.

LINCOLN.—A movement has been started in the city in favour of adopting the Public Libraries Act. With the object of bringing the advantages of the Act before the working-men, in whose hands the question virtually rests, meetings were simultaneously held at the mess-rooms of the various large works on Tuesday, Dec. 1st, during the breakfast

half-hour, when addresses were delivered by members of the Committee which has taken the matter in hand. On the 5th Dec., the same gentlemen again attended for the purpose of answering any questions or giving any further information that might be desired, and it was then proposed to take a vote of the men, so as to ascertain their feeling on the question. If, as is hoped, the response is favourable, the necessary steps towards adopting the Act will at once be proceeded with.

LONDON : CLERKENWELL.—The Freethought books recently rejected by the Commissioners of the Public Library of Stoke Newington have found a haven. Mrs. Samson has offered them to the Clerkenwell Free Public Library, and the commissioners of that institution have promptly accepted them.

LONDON : KENSINGTON.—The New North Kensington Public Library in Ladbrooke Grove was opened by Sir John Lubbock, M.P., on Oct. 29th. The handsome new building is the third public free library situated in the parish of Kensington, the ratepayers of that populous district having adopted the Act so long ago as 1887. The Hon. and Rev. Edward Carr Glyn, M.A., presided, and those present on the platform included Mr. Herbert Saunders, Q.C., Mr. F. C. Eyre, L.C.C., and Capt. W. Haweis James, F.G.S., L.C.C. The Chairman, in his opening speech, said the new library was the outcome of the former library at High Street, Notting Hill Gate, and was a distinct step in the progress of the movement for free libraries in Kensington. The cost had been about £9,000, and already in the North Kensington branch there were 9,000 volumes. At the High Street premises the experiment of opening the library on Sundays was tried, but it was not very successful. The new library would, however, be given the chance of a similar advantage, as it had been decided that its doors should be opened from half-past one in the afternoon until ten o'clock at night. Sir John Lubbock, after referring to the number of free libraries he had had the pleasure of opening at Wimbledon, Clapham, Battersea, Rotherhithe, Hammersmith, and elsewhere, said that circumstances had greatly changed in recent years. When he first spoke on the subject of free libraries, he had to regret that London was so much behind other parts of the country in the matter, but now he was happy to think that was no longer the case, as rapid progress had been made during the last few years. He hoped before long every part of London and every town in England would have its free library. The arguments, from a financial point of view, in favour of free libraries had been greatly strengthened by the statistics of recent years. He endeavoured at the commencement of the movement to show that schools and free libraries rather saved money than cost it, and that had been strengthened by the statistics we had of the progress which had been made recently in this country with reference to the criminal population and pauperism. We should hear in the next few days a great deal about the expense of the London School Board. He thought we might take it that before the establishment of what was called free education the whole expenditure of the country on education and free libraries amounted to something like £7,000,000. On the other side of the account the cost of prisons, prisoners, and police was about £4,000,000, and the amount of the poor rate allotted to the maintenance of the poor was about £8,500,000. Up to 1877 the number of persons in prisons was about 21,000, and the number was slightly tending to increase with the increased population. But since 1877 the number had diminished almost year by year in spite of the increased population. When he last spoke the number averaged 15,000, and it had now fallen to 13,076. It was a remarkable diminution, when it was considered that during the whole of that period the population had been rapidly increasing, and if the popu-

lation of this country in prisons bore the same ratio to the population as formerly, the number, instead of being 13,076, would be 30,000, and the expense would have been nearly £10,000,000, or £5,000,000 more than it actually was. The worst crimes, too, were diminishing most rapidly. For the five years ending 1864 there were 2,800 persons on the average sentenced to penal servitude, but for the last five years, in spite of increased population, the average had diminished to 729. It was, in fact, most satisfactory to feel that while free libraries were increasing our prisons were diminishing, and no less than eight great prisons in the country had been done away with because they were no longer required, and he thought that showed the close connection between crime and ignorance. Out of 157,000 persons who had been committed to prison, he found only 5,000 could read and write, and of the whole 157,000 only 250 might be called educated persons. He thought the figures showed that the crime in this country arose not so much from inherent wickedness, or original sin, as from idleness and ignorance, and not having anything interesting to do. With regard to pauperism up to 1870, the average number of paupers was 47 for every thousand of the population, and one year it rose to 57 per thousand. The numbers had steadily fallen since that time to so low as 23. He thought it very creditable for this city of London that, in spite of its immense size and population, the numbers of paupers per thousand was one or two points below that of the average. If the pauperism had been in the same ratio as it was formerly, the expenditure would have been £17,000,000, instead of £8,500,000, as it was now. He thought the figures showed that the expenditure on free libraries and schools was from a pound, shillings, and pence point of view, a very good investment. In concluding, Sir John Lubbock paid a high tribute to the liberality of Mr. James Heywood, who, when the High Street Library was just started, presented to it the whole of his private library with all its fixtures. Sir John Lubbock then declared the new library open. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

LONDON : POPLAR.—The Commissioners have chosen for their Librarian Mr. Harry Rowlatt, who for the last four years has acted as chief assistant to Mr. Herbert Jones, Librarian of the Kensington Public Libraries. Before going to Kensington, Mr. Rowlatt served for ten years in the Leeds Library, passing through various grades to the sub-Librarianship. His most recent appointment seems to give great satisfaction in Poplar.

LONDON : ST. MARYLEBONE.—The voluntary Libraries of St. Marylebone are by no means declining in consequence of the adverse vote of the ratepayers in March last. A Children's Library has been formed, by special gifts, and was opened on December 2nd with a stock of upwards of 600 volumes. It is open three nights a week, from 6 to 8.30, and the average issue of books is about 80 each night. The juvenile reading-room is crowded nightly, and numbers have to be turned away. The librarian reports that unless fresh supplies of books are forthcoming, the issue of borrowers' tickets will have to cease at the New Year. Strenuous efforts are being made to procure funds for the maintenance of the Libraries, and a series of high-class ballad concerts is to be given in St. George's Hall in February and March, on behalf of the Library funds. It is expected that a good number of popular artistes of the day will assist. A third Library poll is almost certain to take place in 1892.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—The Durham Street Branch News-room was permanently closed on the 30th June. The utility of maintaining this branch has for some time occupied the attention of the Committee, and

to rightly appreciate the reason for doing away with what was, at one time, almost a necessity in that part of the town, it will be necessary briefly to review the earlier history of the Public Library. The Public Library Acts were adopted in November, 1870, and a Committee was appointed in the following March to secure suitable premises for Library and News-room. At that time this was no easy task, and eventually the trustees of the Mechanics' Institute came forward and offered the Committee a temporary home in Durham Street at a merely nominal rental. The News-room was formally opened on the 3rd of April, and the Library on July 24th, 1871. It was, however, felt that the town was even then rapidly extending away from Durham Street, and in the following February a branch News-room was opened in Granville Terrace. In 1876 the Library had quite outgrown the available accommodation at the Mechanics' Institute, and in 1877 it was removed, together with the Granville Terrace News-room, to the more central position of Newport Road, the Durham Street room being retained as a branch news-room. In October, 1887, the Library was again removed to its present location in the Municipal Buildings. The growth of the town, however, during these years had always been away from Durham Street, which has, in consequence, become of less importance with each year. As the cost of maintaining this branch was about £150 per annum, it became a matter of debate whether the money would not be better expended on the Central Library and News-room, inasmuch as it did not appear that the closing of the branch would be an inconvenience to any considerable body of the ratepayers. In January of this year it was decided that the tenancy of the branch should terminate at June 30th. The concentration of income upon the Central Library will undoubtedly strengthen the hands of the Committee very greatly, and enable them to better supply the wants of the readers generally, to add to the Reference Department many works which are urgently required, and materially increase the utility of the institution to the public.

MERSEY DISTRICT LIBRARIANS.—The annual meeting of this organisation took place recently at the Wigan Free Library, under the presidency of the chief librarian (Mr. W. T. Folkard), and others present included representatives from the libraries of Liverpool, Oldham, Warrington, Birkenhead, Widnes, Hindley, Wigan, Bebington, the Athenaeum Proprietary Library, Liverpool, and the Medical Libraries of Manchester and Liverpool. Councillor Jackson, deputy-chairman, and Mr. G. L. Campbell, J.P., a member of the Wigan Library Committee, also attended. The principal paper on "Charging systems for Lending Libraries," by Mr. John A. Stephens, district librarian of the Liverpool South Lending Library, indicated considerable research, covering a wide field of inquiry. It was of a highly practical and interesting character, embracing descriptions of seven different systems, with illustrations. These included the Cotgreave, Elliott, and "Duplex" indicators, the Bradford pocket, and the system devised recently by Mr. Cowell, chief librarian of the Liverpool Free Libraries. In the exhaustive discussion which followed this last-named plan was generally admitted to be the best. It has been in use at the East Branch Library, Kensington, Liverpool, for nearly two years, and has been adopted by several free libraries in the district. The cordial thanks of the meeting were accorded to Mr. Stephens for his paper. The Chairman gave an account of the new free library bill, as amended at a recent meeting of the L. A. U. K. Legislation Committee in London, and

to be introduced into Parliament by that valued friend of the free library movement, Sir John Lubbock. A brief communication on "misleading" comparative library statistics by Mr. Formby (Liverpool) followed, and led to an animated discussion. The hon.-secretary, the originator of the organisation (Mr. C. Madeley, of Warrington), was re-elected, and the customary thanks to the Mayor of Wigan, the Free Library Committee, and to Mr. and Mrs. Folkard for their generous hospitality, with a special vote to Mr. Folkard for his conduct in the chair, and his genial courtesies throughout a most successful and pleasant meeting.

Practical Librarianship.

GUIDE TO THE MITCHELL LIBRARY.

With this number of *The Library* our readers will receive a copy of a small handbook issued by the Committee of THE MITCHELL LIBRARY, GLASGOW, on the recent occasion of the re-opening of the Library in the building which has been reconstructed to receive it. The purpose of the Guide is to furnish to the readers in the Library some account of its origin and character, to explain the various arrangements made for their service, to promote the observance of the rules, and to restrain in some measure practices and habits injurious, and in the end destructive, to books inconsiderately used. The little book tells its own tale, and may be taken as a compendious account of the present position of the Library in its new home. We are glad to learn that since the re-opening the work of the Library has progressed very satisfactorily. The attendance of readers has been large, varying from 1,400 to 2,000 daily, the issue of books being some ten per cent. fewer. The lighting and ventilation are excellent, and the rooms generally agreeable and comfortable.

WOLVERHAMPTON FREE LIBRARY.

PROGRAMME OF CLASSES AND LECTURES.

We are indebted to Mr. Elliot for a supply of this excellent programme, which we are glad to have the opportunity of circulating among our readers. The Wolverhampton Library Committee provide a University for the people in a sense not contemplated by Carlyle when he first used this much-quoted phrase.

THE "BONNER" INDICATOR.

Our third supplement consists of a leaflet, giving two illustrations and a description of Mr. Bonner's Indicator, which we noticed in the August number (p. 307).

Library Association of the United Kingdom.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

The OCTOBER MEETING was held at Hanover Square on the 12th. NEW MEMBERS :—It was announced that the following gentlemen, engaged in library work, had joined the Association :—Edward Brown, Public Library, Coventry ; L. S. Jastrzebski, Akroyd Branch Public Library, Halifax ; Alfred B. Robinson, Public Library, Chelsea ; Robert A. Peddie, 29, Bracewell Road, North Kensington, W.

THE LATE MR. HOLME KAY.

On the motion of Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mr. J. D. Brown, a vote of condolence with the relatives of the late Mr. Holme Kay was passed, and Mr. MacAlister was requested to express to the relatives of the deceased gentleman the sincere sympathy of the Association. Mr. J. D. Brown then read a paper entitled :

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ASSOCIATION'S WORK, 1877-91,
WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS.

The paper was an able review of fourteen years' work, and provoked an interesting discussion, in which Messrs. Corbet (Ceylon), Davis, Doubleday, Gilbert, Humphery, Inkster, Peddie, MacAlister, Quinn, and Tedder took part.

A paper was also read by Mr. MacAlister, entitled :

CAN "MUDIE" HELP THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES?

It was discussed by Messrs. Day, Davis, Doubleday, Cox, Gilbert, Inkster, Quinn, and Tedder.

Votes of thanks to the authors of the papers brought the meeting to a close.

The NOVEMBER MEETING was held at Hanover Square on the 9th.
NEW MEMBERS :—Mr. R. A. Peddie was duly elected.

Mr. Arthur Smith, LL.B., &c., Town Clerk of Wigan, was proposed for election at next meeting.

Mr. MacAlister gave notice that at the next meeting he would, on behalf of the Council, propose that Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., be elected an Honorary Member.

At the last meeting, *apropos* of his paper on the advantage of public libraries hiring ephemeral literature instead of purchasing it, Mr. MacAlister was asked to ascertain whether public libraries would be accepted as subscribers by the circulating libraries, and he now stated that Messrs. Mudie had expressed themselves cheerfully willing to negotiate with any public library.

The following paper was read :

ON A CARD CHARGING SYSTEM FOR FREE LIBRARIES, by Mr. J. H. Quinn, Librarian of the Chelsea Public Libraries.

Mr. Quinn exhibited models to illustrate his paper, and Mr. George Parr, of the London Institution, showed a complete working model of his well-known card charging system and explained it to the meeting. A very practical discussion followed in which Messrs. Brown, Cotgreave, Davis, Jones, MacAlister, Mason, Pacy, Parr, Tedder, and Wright took part. Mr. Quinn replied, and votes of thanks to him and to Mr. Parr terminated the proceedings.

The DECEMBER MEETING was held at 20, Hanover Square, on the 14th.

NEW MEMBERS :—Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., F.R.S., &c., was unanimously elected an Honorary Member.

Mr. Arthur Smith, Town Clerk of Wigan, was duly elected an Ordinary Member.

Mr. Archibald Clarke, 24, Estelle Road, Gospel Oak, N.W., was proposed for election at next meeting.

The Council announced that it had appointed a permanent Committee to aid in promoting the adoption of the Acts in new districts. A list of the Committee and further particulars will be issued shortly.

Notice was given that the Report of the Committee on Size Notation would be proposed for formal adoption at the January Meeting.

A paper on THE MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES OF PARIS, by Mr. E. M. Borrajo, was read by Mr. Cecil Davis in the absence of the author.

It was discussed by Messrs. Burgoyne, Davis, Gilbert, Humphery, and Tedder, and votes of thanks to Mr. Borrajo and Mr. Davis brought the meeting to a close.

EXAMINATIONS.

The October number of THE LIBRARY contained the new Examination Scheme which explains in detail the subjects, both of the preliminary and professional examinations, and gives a list of the books recommended for the use of candidates.

The Council have now appointed a Board of Examiners, and decided that the Examinations shall be held during the first week in June, and the first week in December every year.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

Mr. Chancellor Christie; Mr. Robert Harrison, Librarian of the London Library; Mr. J. D. Mullins, Librarian of the Birmingham Public Libraries; Mr. H. R. Tedder (Treasurer); Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister (Hon. Sec.); Mr. Thomas Mason (Hon. Sec.); Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, Librarian of the Nottingham Public Libraries; Mr. F. J. Burgoyne, Librarian of the Lambeth Public Libraries; Mr. Cecil Davis, Librarian of the Wandsworth Public Library; Mr. Wm. May, Librarian of the Birkenhead Public Libraries; Mr. J. J. Ogle, Librarian of the Bootle Public Library; Mr. J. H. Quinn, Librarian of the Chelsea Public Libraries.

[It is provided that no member of the Board shall officiate in connection with an Examination at which any of his assistants, or any person with whom he is officially connected, shall submit himself for examination.]

No candidate can enter for the ordinary or professional examination until he has passed the Preliminary, or some other Public Examination, in general knowledge, of equal value.*

The Six Subjects of the Ordinary or Professional Examination may be taken two at a time on different occasions. Certificates *pro tanto* will be granted, and will be exchanged for a full certificate when all six subjects have been passed.

No fee is charged at present, but it is probable that candidates who have failed to pass will be charged a fee before they are allowed to sit again.

Candidates can be examined either in London, or in any town where there is a large public library.

NOTICE.

The next Examination will be held during the first week in June next. Candidates must send in their names to the Secretaries, not later than May 2nd, and must state for what portion of the Examination they propose to enter, and where they desire to be examined.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MUSEUM OF APPLIANCES.

LIBRARIANS and others who are intending to contribute to this section of the Association's work are requested to send all specimens for exhibition to Mr. Brown, Clerkenwell Public Library, London. A number of valuable and useful articles have been sent already, and it is therefore hoped that a very large response will be made to the circular which will be sent out in a few days. There is every reason to suppose that in a very short time a collection of the greatest practical value will be formed.

Nothing is too insignificant for the collection, provided it fulfils the simple condition of being germane to library work.

* N.R.—Those accepted by the General Medical Council, as exempting from the Preliminary Medical Examination, are accepted by the Council of the Library Association. For List apply to the Registrar, General Medical Council, 299, Oxford Street, W.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor. Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publisher, 20, Hanover Square, W.

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Library Association Year-book.

PROSPECTUS.



THE Library Association of the United Kingdom was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of Mr. J. Winter Jones, Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its object are (a) to encourage and aid by every means in its power the establishment of new libraries; (b) to endeavour to secure better legislation for public libraries; (c) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of libraries; and (d) to encourage bibliographical research.

The Association has, by the invitation of the local authorities, held its Annual Meetings in various towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, Glasgow and Reading. The next Annual Meeting (1891) will be held at Nottingham in September.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Annual Subscription is One Guinea, payable in advance, on January 1st. The Life-Subscription is Fifteen Guineas. Any

person actually engaged in Library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Subscription. Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants, approved by the Council, are admitted on payment of a Subscription of Half-a-Guinea.

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, and issues a certificate to those who satisfy the examiners. Syllabuses of the Examination may be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretaries. (See pp. 13-19).

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *The Library Chronicle*, and in *The Library*, its official organ, which is sent post-free every month to all members.

The Hon. Secretaries will be glad to receive papers on appropriate subjects for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.



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OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.

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ROBERT HARRISON, Librarian of the London Library.

Past-Presidents.

(See Constitution, IV, 9).

J. K. INGRAM, LL.D., late Librarian, Trinity College, Dublin.

His Honour Judge RUSSELL.

Mr. Alderman G. J. JOHNSON, Chairman, Free Libraries Committee, Birmingham.

Rev. Professor W. P. DICKSON, Curator, University Library, Glasgow.

E. A. BOND, C.B., LL.D., late Principal Librarian, British Museum.

R. COPLEY CHRISTIE, Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester.

E. MAUNDE THOMPSON, LL.D., Principal Librarian, British Museum.

Vice-Presidents.

F. T. BARRETT, Librarian, Mitchell Library, Glasgow.

GEORGE BULLEN, C.B., LL.D., late Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum.

J. T. CLARK, Keeper, Advocates' Library, Edinburgh.

PETER COWELL, Librarian, Free Public Library, Liverpool.

RICHARD GARNETT, LL.D., Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum.

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C. W. SUTTON, Librarian, Free Public Libraries, Manchester.

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SAM TIMMINS, Free Libraries Committee, Birmingham.

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 CECIL T. DAVIS, Librarian, Free Library, Wandsworth.
 W. RALPH DOUTHWAITE, Librarian, Gray's Inn.
 L. INKSTER, Librarian, Free Libraries, Battersea.
 H. E. POOLE, Librarian, Free Public Library, Westminster.
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 C. MADELEY, Librarian, The Museum, Warrington.
 W. MAY, Librarian, Free Library, Birkenhead.
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 JOHN TAYLOR, Librarian, City Free Library, Bristol.
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Treasurer.

- HENRY R. TEDDER, Librarian, Athenaeum Club, Pall Mall, S.W.

Hon. Secretaries.

- J. Y. W. MACALISTER (Librarian, Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society),
 20, Hanover Square, W.
 THOMAS MASON, Librarian, St. Martin-in-the-Fields Free Public Library, 115,
 St. Martin's Lane, Trafalgar Square, W.C.

Auditors.

- T. J. AGAR, Chartered Accountant, 9, Bucklersbury, E.C.
 G. R. HUMPHERY, (Messrs. Braby & Co.) Deptford.



CONSTITUTION OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(As revised at the London Meeting, 1889).

I. NAME.

1. The Association shall be called "The Library Association of the United Kingdom."

II. OBJECTS.

2. Its objects shall be (a) to encourage and aid by every means in its power the establishment of new libraries; (b) to endeavour to secure better legislation for free libraries; (c) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of libraries; and (d) to encourage bibliographical research.

III. MEMBERS.

3. There shall be two classes of members, subscribing and honorary.

4. Subscribing members shall pay an annual subscription of one guinea, but library assistants, approved by the Council, shall only be required to pay a subscription of half-a-guinea. All subscriptions shall become due in advance on the 1st of January in each year. Any member not paying the subscription within six calendar months from that date shall, after notification, cease to belong to the Association. The annual payments may be commuted by a life-subscription of fifteen guineas, and such subscription shall be invested by the Council on behalf of the Association.

5. Any person engaged in the administration of a library shall become a subscribing member on payment of the annual subscription. Libraries and other institutions may become members in like manner as if they were individuals, and shall be entitled yearly to nominate a delegate to attend the meetings of the Association, who may vote and in every way act as an ordinary member of the Association.

6. Any person not actually engaged in library administration may be elected a subscribing member at any monthly meeting, after notice of proposal given at the previous meeting.

7. Honorary members may be elected by a vote of upwards of three-fourths of the members voting at any monthly meeting, after notice of proposal given at the previous meeting.

8. The Association shall have power to strike any member off its list by the unanimous vote of all members voting at any monthly meeting, after notice of motion given at the previous meeting, and communicated to the member; or by a

vote of five-sixths of the members voting at any annual or special general meeting. Provided that a member whose name has been struck off at a monthly meeting shall have the right of appeal to the next annual or special general meeting.

IV. OFFICERS.

9. The whole affairs of the Association shall be conducted (subject to the control of annual and special general meetings) by a Council, consisting of a President, twelve Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, two Secretaries, and twenty others, of whom eight shall be London and twelve country members. The above shall be elected at one annual meeting, and shall bear office until the close of the next. To these shall be added all past Presidents and Vice-Presidents who shall intimate their wish to serve on the Council.

10. In case of the death or resignation of any elected officer, the Council may, at their discretion, elect some other member in his place.

11. The President shall not be capable of holding office for a continuous period of more than one year.

12. The Council shall present to the annual meeting a general report on the progress of the Association during the year.

13. The Treasurer shall receive all money due to the Association, shall make such payments as the Council shall direct, and shall keep a clear account of all receipts, payments, assets and liabilities, of which he shall submit a report to the annual meeting, and whenever so requested, to the Council.

14. The Secretaries for the time being shall keep a record of all proceedings, shall draft reports, issue notices, and conduct correspondence, and shall have the charge of all books, papers, and other property belonging to the Association.

15. Meetings of the Council shall be called by the President, and shall be held at such time and place as he shall appoint. It shall be lawful for the Secretaries to submit any resolution to each member of the Council in writing, and to receive written answers.

16. Two auditors shall be annually elected by the Association at the same time and manner in which the officers are elected. They shall present to the Association, at each annual meeting, a full report on its financial affairs. In the event of the death or resignation of an Auditor, the vacancy shall be filled up by the next monthly meeting of the Association.

17. No person shall hold two offices simultaneously, or shall be at the same time an officer and an Auditor.

V. MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

18. There shall be an annual meeting, of which at least two calendar months' notice shall be sent to each member. The Association shall fix, at each annual meeting, the place of the next, provided that the same town shall not be chosen for two successive meetings.

19. The annual meeting shall receive and consider the general report of the Council and the Treasurer's report, motions of which one month's notice shall have been given to the Secretaries, and papers approved by the Council.

20. Monthly meetings shall also be held in London, at some fixed time and place, of which notice shall be given to all subscribing members; but the Council shall have power to suspend the meetings during July, August, and September. The Council shall have authority to engage rooms for the monthly meetings, and for

the formation of a museum of library appliances, and ultimately of a bibliographical library.

21. The monthly meetings shall receive and consider papers and suggestions on all subjects relating to the aims of the Association; shall examine all library appliances and designs submitted to them, and shall lay their conclusions and recommendations before the Council. They shall further have power to appoint special committees for the investigation of any particular subject; and the reports of such committees shall be submitted to the Council.

22. On receipt of a requisition from any five members of the Council, or any fifteen subscribing members, the President shall convene, within one calendar month, a special general meeting, provided that the purpose for which the meeting is required be stated in the requisition, and also in the summons issued by the President.

23. No action shall be taken by the Council upon any question specially affecting the provincial libraries without first submitting such questions to the librarians who are members of the Association, and getting their opinion in writing or otherwise.

24. In any district containing six members of the Association, a Local Committee may be formed, with a Corresponding Secretary. Resolutions and recommendations forwarded by Local Committees to the Secretaries of the Association shall be laid before its next monthly meeting

VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.

25. All elections of honorary members shall be conducted by ballot, the candidates being balloted for together. If there be fewer than one black ball in four, all the candidates shall be declared elected; otherwise they shall be balloted for separately, when one black ball in four shall exclude.

26. The election of officers shall be conducted by ballot upon a list, which shall include all nominations handed to the Secretaries before noon on the day preceding the day of election. Each nomination must be assented to in writing by at least three members of the Association.

27. On the demand of four subscribing members, any motion shall be decided by ballot.

28. The Chairman of any meeting shall have the right of voting, and if the votes be equal shall have a casting vote.

29. Honorary members shall not have the right of voting.

VII. LAWS.

30. The Council may initiate any bye-law not inconsistent with this Constitution; such bye-law shall be proposed at the next monthly meeting and if passed shall have immediate effect.

31. Amendments to this Constitution may be moved by the Council at an annual or special general meeting, notice of the proposed amendment being given on the summons of such meeting. Any individual member may also propose such an amendment at an annual or special general meeting, by giving one calendar month's notice to the Secretaries. But no amendment shall have effect unless it be passed by the votes of two-thirds of the subscribing members present and voting.



CATALOGUING RULES OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(As Revised at the Liverpool Meeting, 1883.)

TITLE.

1. Title and imprint entries are to be as far as possible in the language of the title, alterations and additions being enclosed in square brackets.
2. The title is to be an exact transcript from the title-page, neither amended, translated, nor in any way altered, except that mottoes, repetitions, and matter of any kind not essential may be omitted, omissions to be indicated by a group of three dots (. . .). The typography and punctuation of the title need not be strictly adhered to.
3. The titles of books especially valuable for antiquity or rarity may be given in full, with the exact punctuation.
4. In English, initial capitals are to be given to proper names of persons and personifications, places, bodies, noted events, and periods; to adjectives and other words derived from proper names when they have a direct reference to the person, place, &c., from which they are derived; to the first word of every quoted title of a work; to titles of honour, when standing instead of a proper name (e.g., Earl of Derby, but John Stanley, earl of Derby.)
5. In foreign languages the use of capitals is to follow the local practice.
6. In doubtful cases capitals are to be avoided.

VOLUMES, SIZE, PLACE, DATE, &C.

7. Other particulars are to be given after the title in the following order, those printed in italics being optional :—
 - (a) The edition as specified on the title-page.
 - (b) The number of volumes, if more than one.
 - (c) *If there be only one volume, the number of pages to be indicated by giving the number of each pagination, connecting the numbers by the sign + ; the same sign added at the end indicating additional unpaginated matter other than advertisements.*
 - (d) *The number of separate illustrations, maps, or portraits.*
 - (e) The size.
 - (f) *The place of publication, the place of printing, when different from that of publication, and the publisher's name.*
 - (g) *The year as given on the title-page, but in Arabic figures ; the year of actual publication, if known to be different, being added in square brackets.*

CONTENTS AND NOTES.

8. Contents of volumes are to be given when expedient, and in smaller type.
9. Notes explanatory or illustrative, or descriptive of bibliographical and other peculiarities, including imperfections, to be subjoined when necessary ; tables of contents and notes to be in smaller type.

HEADINGS.

Books are to be entered—

10. Under the surnames of authors when stated on the title-page, or otherwise

certainly known, with the fore-name in brackets; a name not stated in the book or in a subsequent edition of it to be placed within square brackets, and all anonymous works to have the abbreviation "Anon." added.

11. Under the initials of authors' names when these only are known, the last initial being put first.

12. Under the pseudonyms of the writers, with a cross-reference from the real name when known.

13. Under the names of editors of collections, and under the catch-titles of such collections, with cross-references from the separate items.

14. Under the names of countries and cities, societies, &c., which authorize their publication.

15. Under the first word, not an article, of the titles of periodicals.

16. Under the chief subject-word of the titles of anonymous books, and, where advisable, with a cross-reference under any other noticeable word.

17. Commentaries with the text, and translations, are to be entered under the heading of the original work; but commentaries without the text under the name of the commentator.

18. The Bible, or any part of it (including the Apocrypha) in any language, is to be under the word "Bible," the separate parts classed in the order of the authorized version, polyglots and original texts coming first, followed by English translations; the other versions in alphabet of names of the languages.

19. The Talmud and Koran (and parts of them) are to be entered under those words; the sacred books of other religions are to be entered under the names by which they are generally known; cross-references to be given from the names of editors, translators, etc.

20. Service and Prayer-Books used by any religious community are to be placed under the head of Liturgies, with a sub-head of the religious community.

21. Books having more than one author or editor are to be entered under the one first-named in the title, with a cross-reference under each of the others.

22. Names of translators, commentators, editors, and preface writers, if they do not occur in the title-page, may be added within square brackets, a cross-reference being made in each case.

23. The respondent or defender of an academical thesis is to be considered as the author, unless the work unequivocally appears to be the work of the prases. It should be noticed that sometimes the respondent and defender are joint authors.

24. Reports of civil actions are to be entered under the name of the party to the suit which stands first on the title-page. Reports of Crown and criminal proceedings are to be entered under the name of the defendant. Admiralty proceedings relating to vessels are to be entered under the name of the vessel.

25. Catalogues are to be entered under the name of the institution, or owner of the collection, with a cross-reference from the compiler.

26. Noblemen are to be entered under the title, except when the family name is better known, a cross-reference under the title being made in every case.

27. Ecclesiastical dignitaries, unless popes or sovereign princes, are to be entered under their surnames; the highest title to be added, with a cross-reference from the title employed in the book.

28. All persons generally known by a fore-name are to be so entered, the English form being used in the case of sovereigns, popes, ruling princes, Oriental writers, friars, and persons canonized.

29. Married women, and other persons who have changed their names, to be

put under the name best known, with a cross-reference from the last authorized name.

30. In the heading of titles, the names of authors are to be given in full, and in their vernacular form; authors, generally known under their Latin or Latinized names, are to be entered under those names, the vernacular name being added after the first entry, and a cross-reference being made.

31. English and French surnames beginning with a prefix (except the French *de* and *d'*) are to be recorded under the prefix; in other languages, under the word following.

32. English compound surnames are to be entered under the last part of the name; foreign ones under the first part, cross-references being given in all instances.

33. When an author has been known by more than one name, references should be inserted from the name or names not used as headings to the one used.

34. A society is to be entered under the first word, not an article, of its corporate name, with references to any other name by which it is known, and *from the name of the place where its headquarters are established.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

35. The heading is not to be repeated; a single indent or dash indicates the omission of the preceding heading or title. A dash following a number signifies continuation.

36. Entries under the surname only are to precede fuller entries under the same name; where the initials only of the fore-names are given, they are to precede full entries with the same initials.

37. Abbreviated prefixes, such as *M'* and *Mc*, *S.*, *St.*, *Ste.*, *Messrs.*, *Mr.*, and *Mrs.*, are to be arranged as if written in full, *Mac*, *Sanctus*, *Saint*, *Sainte*, *Messieurs*, *Mister*, and *Mistress*.

38. The works of an author are to be arranged in the following order:—

(a) Collected works.

(b) Partial collections.

(c) Individual works in alphabetical order of titles, under the first word, not an article or a preposition having the meaning of "concerning."

Translations are to follow the originals in alphabetical order of languages, General cross-references are to come last.

39. Cross-references are to be given from the subjects of biographies or of books illustrating the lives and works of individuals to the writers.

40. The order of alphabetization is to be that of the English alphabet.

41. In composite headings the first word is alone to be considered.

42. Names of persons are to precede similar names of places.

43. Titles in foreign characters may be transliterated.

44. The German *ä*, *ö*, *ü*, are to be arranged as if written out in full, *ae*, *oe*, *ue*.

45. Arabic figures are to be used rather than Roman; but Roman figures may be used after the names of sovereigns, princes, and popes, and may be used to designate the number of a volume, followed by a page-number.

46. Designations are to be added to distinguish writers of the same name from each other.

47. Prefixes indicating the rank or profession of writers may be added in the heading, when they are part of the usual designation of the writers.

48. The languages in which a book is written are to be stated, when there are more than one, and the fact is not mentioned in the title-page.



EXAMINATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom holds Examinations periodically if candidates present themselves, for the purpose of granting certificates to Library Assistants and others.

For the present persons who have not been actually engaged as Library assistants may be admitted to the examination on obtaining permission from the Council.

Every candidate will, as a matter of course, be expected to show proficiency in the ordinary subjects of a sound English education. These subjects are in the Report of the Committee on this subject (which is printed in *Monthly Notes*, vol. ii. pp. 62-4) specified to be: 1, Arithmetic; 2, English Grammar and Composition; 3, English History; 4, Geography; 5, English Literature. Special attention will be given to Writing and Spelling. The Examiners will, if necessary, set a general paper in these subjects at the examination for a Second-Class certificate.

EXAMINATION FOR A SECOND-CLASS CERTIFICATE.

A *Second Class Certificate* will be awarded to any Librarian or Assistant who shall have been engaged in library work for not less than one year, and shall pass a satisfactory examination in the subjects numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, below.

A cataloguing knowledge of at least *two* languages besides English, of which Latin must be one, will be necessary for a certificate.

1. *English Literature, especially of the last hundred years.*

Candidates are recommended to use some or all of the following books to gather a general idea of the history and development of literature in England. It is obvious that candidates who are employed in a library have abundant facilities for securing an acquaintance with the standard works in English literature, and the examiners will take special care to see how far the candidates have examined the books themselves, and not merely read about them. It is also obvious that the candidate must be expected to have a more exact knowledge of the various editions and forms in which the works of leading writers have been published, and of the literature that has grown up around these works, than can always be derived from the ordinary text-books of literature.

The general history may be read in *Stopford Brooke's Primer*, followed by *Angus*, or *Arnold*, or *Craik*, or *Morley (First Sketch)*, or *Shaw*. One of the latter works may be used as a text-book, and reference may be made to *Morley's* larger books. *Taine* may also be consulted by more advanced students.

It is more difficult to recommend an adequate text-book for the literature of

the last hundred years; but Prof. Morley's account of *English Literature in the Reign of Victoria* may be used. It is obvious that it is particularly important for the student in this portion of his reading to make constant reference to the books treated of.

2. *Some one other European Literature.*

The literature which it will be well for candidates to select will be that of France or Germany. *French literature* may be studied in Saintsbury's *Primer of French Literature* or Masson's *Class Book of French Literature*. *German literature* may be studied in Gostwick and Harrison's *Outlines of German Literature*. In each case easy passages for translation will be set, so as to test the candidate's familiarity with the language, and the languages in which the candidate satisfies the examiners will be endorsed on the certificate.

3. *Classification.*

Candidates will be expected to make themselves acquainted with some of the chief systems of classification used in large libraries. Their practical knowledge will be tested by their being asked to say how they would classify a number of books given to them for that purpose. The candidates will also be expected to have a general idea of the subjects with which the various departments of knowledge are concerned.

4. *Elements of Bibliography and Cataloguing.*

As here employed, the term bibliography is intended to cover a knowledge of the external history and character of printed books, and of the various modes of describing and cataloguing them.

The cataloguing knowledge and skill of the candidate will be tested by placing before him a certain number of books to be catalogued according to the rules of the Library Association. For the general subject, the article *Bibliography* in the new edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* or Horne's *Introduction to the Study of Bibliography* may be consulted.

5. *Library Management and Administration.*

The subject of Library Management is one in which the examination must be of a specially practical nature, and in which book-knowledge must hold a secondary though not unimportant place. This branch of the examination will be directed rather to test the candidate's experience, and his skill and readiness in dealing with the various practical problems which may be submitted by way of testing his capacity. The candidate will be examined as to his knowledge of the methods in use in his own library, or in any other with which he may be acquainted. He is recommended to read Mr. Mullins' book on *Free Libraries and News-Rooms*.

EXAMINATION FOR A FIRST-CLASS CERTIFICATE.

A *First-Class Certificate* will be given to a librarian or assistant of at least two years' experience for an advanced knowledge of the above subjects, and also of General Literary History.

A Cataloguing knowledge of at least three languages, of which one must be Latin, will be necessary for a First-Class Certificate, and a sufficient acquaintance with any other will be specially endorsed on the certificate.

Proficiency in special subjects offered by the candidate (of which not more than two may be offered) will be specially endorsed.

I. *English Literature, especially of the last hundred years.*

In addition to the text-books recommended above, candidates for a First-Class

Certificate should consult Taine's *Histoire de la Littérature Anglaise* (original or translation) for the general history of English literature, and Mrs. Oliphant's *Literary History of England in the End of the Eighteenth and Beginning of the Nineteenth Century* for that of the last hundred years.

2. *Some one other European Literature.*

French Literature may be studied in Demogeot's *Histoire de la Littérature Française* or *Geruzet*; and German Literature in Koenig's *Deutsche Literaturgeschichte*, or Scherer's *Geschichte der deutschen Literatur* (translated).

3. *Classification.*

Candidates will do well to read Fowler's *Inductive Logic*, pp. 45-88, and Jevons's *Principles of Science*, chap. xxx. They may also refer to Mill's *System of Logic*, and Whewell's books on the *Inductive Sciences*.

4. *Elements of Bibliography, including Cataloguing.*

In addition to the practical knowledge of the subject acquired by the candidate in his own library, the advanced student will find it needful to refer to the recent discussions in England and America on the subjects of Cataloguing and Size Notation.

A knowledge of bibliography must be held to imply an acquaintance with the early history of printing, especially in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and in this country; and some acquaintance with the leading catalogues and bibliographical works, especially those produced in the English-speaking countries. The candidate should also be familiar with the Latin names of the towns most frequently found in imprints.

The candidate may be recommended to pay attention to the bibliographies of special subjects, and may offer one or more of them as "Special subjects:" e.g., Mr. Mullinger's list of authorities in Gardiner and Mullinger's *Introduction to English History*.

5. *Library Management and Administration.*

The chief subjects to which the candidate should direct his attention are the following:—

i. Library Buildings. ii. Library Fittings and Appliances. iii. Acquisition and Selection of Books. iv. Shelf Arrangement. v. Catalogues: (a.) Shelf Lists; (b.) Accession Lists; (c.) Catalogues for Readers. vi. Administration: a. Finance; b. Librarian's relation to the Readers; c. Circulation of Books.—(1) Lending Department; (2) Reference Department.—d. Stock-taking; e. Duties of the Staff. vii. Binding.

Candidates will be expected to show some knowledge of the arrangements and regulations of the leading libraries in this country of the class of that in which they are employed.

The sources of information upon the various subjects included under Library Management are too numerous to be mentioned in detail. For a general survey of the whole field candidates may refer to the article *Libraries* in the new edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* or Mr. Edwards' *Memoirs of Libraries*, and may also consult the United States Government *Report of 1876*, and the articles to be found in our own *Transactions*, and in the *Library Journal*, *Monthly Notes*, the *Library Chronicle*, and *The Library*.

6. *General Literary History.*

It is difficult to recommend a text-book in this subject, but the student should not overlook Berington's *Literary History of the Middle Ages* and Hallam's *Literature of Europe*.

SPECIMEN QUESTIONS.

I. ENGLISH LITERATURE.

1. By what works are the following persons chiefly known: Caxton, W. H. Prescott, Christopher North, Chillingworth, Christopher Anstey, Sir Thomas Elyot?
2. Who have written lives of Nelson, Cromwell, Garrick, Hume, Wellington, Queen Elizabeth, John Hampden?
3. Who wrote the "Pursuits of Literature," "Baviad and Mæviad," "Piers Plowman's Crede," "Peter Pindar's Lyric Odes," "The Battle of the Books," "The Fable of the Bees," "Leviathan," "The Purple Island," "Polyolbion," "The Curse of Kehama," "The Tour of Dr. Syntax," "The Fool of Quality"?
4. Mention the names of some Englishmen who have written Autobiographies.
5. What plays were written by Goldsmith, Congreve, Sheridan, Middleton?
6. What do you consider the ten best English novels of the 18th century?

II. FRENCH LITERATURE.

1. Translate into English:—

Au total, la nature humaine est ici plus intacte. Sous cette éducation, les enfants ressemblent aux arbres d'un jardin anglais; sous la nôtre, aux charmilles tondues et alignées de Versailles. Par exemple, ici, les enfants sont presque aussi libres que des étudiants; ils sont tenus d'assister aux classes, aux répétitions, au dîner, et de rentrer le soir à une heure fixée, rien de plus; le reste de la journée leur appartient; à eux de l'employer à leur guise. La seule charge qui pèse sur ces heures libres est l'obligation de faire le devoir prescrit; mais ils peuvent le faire où ils veulent et quand ils veulent; ils travaillent chez soi ou ailleurs.

2. What is the meaning of: plaquettes romantiques, les encyclopédistes, langue d'oc, langue d'oïl, les précieuses?
3. Mention the names of six Frenchwomen who have distinguished themselves in literature.
4. By what works are the following persons chiefly known: Descartes, Amyot, Auguste Comte, Octave Feuillet, Gustave Flaubert, Bossuet, Comte de Maistre, Bernardin de Saint Pierre?
5. Who wrote "De l'Esprit," "Le Roman Comique," "Roman du Brut," "Les Derniers Bretons," "Voyage du Jeune Anacharsis," "La profession de foi du Vicaire savoyard," "Picciola," "Nos intimes," "Feuilles d'Automne"?

III. GERMAN LITERATURE.

1. Translate the following into English:—

Wir haben, Theurer Freund, nunmehr die zwölf Theile Ihrer dichterischen Werke beisammen, und finden, indem wir sie durchlesen, manches Bekannte, manches Unbekannte; ja manches Vergessene wird durch diese Sammlung wieder angefrischt. Man kann sich nicht enthalten, diese zwölf Bände, welche in einem Format vor uns stehen, als ein Ganzes zu betrachten, und man möchte sich daraus gern ein Bild des Autors und seines Talents entwerfen. Nun ist nicht zu läugnen, dass für die Lebhaftigkeit womit derselbe seine schriftstellerische Laufbahn begonnen, für die lange Zeit, die seitdem verschlossen, ein Dutzend Bändchen zu wenig scheinen müssen.

2. Give a list in order of their publication of Lessing's works.
3. Give some particulars of the life of Goethe.
4. Describe briefly the play of Faust.
5. Who were the men of "Sturm und Drang," when did they flourish, and what were their characteristics?

IV. CLASSIFICATION AND BIBLIOGRAPHY.

NOTE.—*First-class candidates only are expected to answer the last two questions.*

1. Catalogue the ten books before you according to the rules of the Library Association and classify them under sections and sub-sections.
2. Give the headings of sections (not less than ten) under which you would classify a collection of works on (1) theology, or (2) natural science: [a choice to be made of one or other of these classifications].
3. Explain the meaning of: Mazarine Bible, diplomatics, the Schoolmaster Printer of St. Albans, palimpsest, the Bollandists, bibliotaph.
4. Who were the inventors of: stereotyping, lithography, logotypy, the steam printing press?
5. Whose are the best editions of Homer (in Greek), Plato (in Greek), Shakespeare, Milton, Spencer, Swift, Chaucer, Shelley, Bacon?
6. What are the dates of the first two folio editions of Shakespeare?
7. What are the best printed catalogues of private libraries known to you and give the chief characteristics of each.
8. Mention the names of those who have compiled bibliographies of anonymous and pseudonymous books.

V. LIBRARY MANAGEMENT.

NOTE.—*First-class candidates only are expected to answer the last three questions.*

1. By what names are the different forms and sizes of books ordinarily known, and from what part of the book are the names derived?
2. In what proportion should shelf-room be provided for the accommodation of the various sizes of volumes in a collection of miscellaneous books—how many tenths for large volumes, how many for small? Name each size.
3. In what order would you arrange on the shelves a miscellaneous collection so as to make each volume readily accessible to assistants and to readers?
4. How would you arrange pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers?
5. What kind of binding would you recommend (1) for books that circulate and (2) for books not allowed to circulate?
6. How would you keep account of books issued from, and returned to a lending library? and what protection against the loss of books would you devise?
7. Describe the Indicator and its uses, and say which of the different forms, in your opinion, is the best and why.
8. Name the newspapers and serials that you would recommend, in their order as daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly.
9. State the proportions in which a Free Library of 10,000 volumes in a provincial English town should consist of the various classes and languages requisite for a good general Library.

10. State what furniture, in addition to bookshelves, is indispensable for a Reference Library, a Lending Library, and a Reading Room.
-
11. What is the best method of lighting, warming, and cleaning a Library. State also what protection against fire you would suggest.
 12. Say what books you would recommend to a reader seeking information on "Modern History" or on "Darwinism" or on "Applied Science."
 13. How many assistants would be indispensable in a Library consisting of Reference and Lending Libraries and Newsroom? and what would be the several duties of librarian and assistants?

QUESTIONS SET AT THE EXAMINATION, APRIL 1888.

I. (a) ENGLISH LITERATURE.

NOTE.—*First-class candidates only are expected to answer the last two questions.*

1. Who wrote the following works, and about what date:—"Confessio Amantis"; "Vestiges of Creation"; the "Song of the Shirt"; "Stones of Venice"; "Tale of a Tub"; "Hesperides"; "The Strayed Reveller"; "Utopia"; "Frankenstein"; and "The Excursion"?
 2. What is meant by the Terms "The Lake School"; "The Euphuists"; "Bozzy"; and the "Great Unknown"?
 3. What are the principal works of Chaucer, Milton, Dryden, Shelley, Landor, and Matthew Arnold? Give dates where you can.
 4. Name the four best essayists, poets, historians and biographers of the last hundred years.
 5. Trace briefly the history of literary journals in this country.
 6. What is meant by 'Evolution'? and give the names of the chief English exponents of the theory.
-
7. Name the leading works of reference for English literary history.
 8. Name the chief living American authors.

(b) FRENCH LITERATURE.

1. Translate into English:—

"Si le bibliomane est précieux relativement au commerce de la librairie, le bibliophile l'est bien davantage relativement au progrès des sciences et des arts; parce que, ne s'attachant qu'aux bons ouvrages, il rend nécessairement les auteurs plus circonspects, plus difficiles et plus soignés dans leurs productions. Il nous semble donc que le titre de *bibliophile* ne doit appartenir qu'à celui qui aime les livres comme on doit les aimer, et nullement à ceux qu'une aveugle passion égare dans les recherches qu'ils font des ouvrages qui, par une aveugle fantaisie, centuplent quelquefois de valeur."

2. Name the principal writings of Rousseau, Voltaire, Victor Hugo, and Thiers.
3. Who were the *Encyclopédistes*?
4. Give an account of the *Académie Française*?
5. Mention *ten* of the chief living writers of France, naming the works by which they are best known.

II. CLASSIFICATION AND BIBLIOGRAPHY.

NOTE.—*First-class candidates only are expected to answer the last two questions.*

1. Catalogue the ten books before you according to the Rules of the Library Association, and classify them under sections and sub-sections.
2. Explain the meaning of: signature, bibliognost, palimpsest, incunabula, the Nuremberg Chronicle, the Great Bible.
3. Give the dates of the first editions of "Hamlet," "Paradise Lost," "Coverdale's Bible," "Tom Jones," "Tristram Shandy," "Pickwick Papers," "Vanity Fair."
4. Whose are the best editions of Swift, Shelley, Piers Plowman, Ben Jonson, Beaumont and Fletcher, Keats, Wordsworth, Voltaire (in French), Cicero (in Latin)?
5. What is a "Dictionary Catalogue"? and mention the best specimens known to you.
6. Give the headings of sections (not less than ten) under which you would classify a collection of works on (1) history, *or* (2) geography and travels [a choice to be made of one or other of these classifications].
7. Arrange in classified order the names of the chief writers on the history of England during the 19th century.
8. What are the English equivalents for Duacum, Madritum, Lugdunum, Augusta Trevirorum, Leodicum, and the Latin for York, Berlin, Cologne, Lisbon.

III. LIBRARY MANAGEMENT.

NOTE.—*First-class candidates only are expected to answer the last five questions.*

1. What are the fittings and appliances required in a public news-room (1) for displaying newspapers (2) for magazines?
2. How would you proceed, in starting a library, to select 10,000 volumes, comprising both reference and lending departments?
3. Describe accession book and shelf catalogue. What registers are required for recording stock?
4. Lending Library:—How is the library to be secured against loss of books? What forms and registers should you require in connection with the lending of books?
5. What arrangements would you make with borrowers residing outside your own district?
6. What rules should you propose for the reference library?
7. How would you take stock without closing the library?
8. Give a form of monthly report on the work of the library.
9. Sketch a ground plan of a lending library of 10,000 volumes, showing arrangement of shelves, counter, desk, &c.
10. Give a list of 10 works of general reference (encyclopædias, dictionaries, &c.) which you would consider most essential in a library of limited extent.
11. Give a list of 5 daily, 10 weekly, and 20 monthly periodicals and newspapers you would recommend for your news-room (omitting local journals).
12. How should pamphlets be kept for reference before binding?
13. Can you give a time-table of attendance of a staff of six persons in a library comprising (1) Reference Library, (2) Lending Library, and (3) News-room?
14. What form of catalogue is best adapted for a lending library?
15. In what way would you bring your recent additions before your readers?

PRIZE ESSAYS.

In 1886 Mr. E. M. BORRAJO offered to present an Annual Prize of £3. 3s. for three years for an Essay on some subject connected with Librarianship or Bibliography.

The offer was accepted by the Council, and the subject of the first year's competition was announced as

THE EXTENSION OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACTS TO SMALL PLACES.

The successful Essay was written by Mr. J. J. Ogle, Senior Assistant, Nottingham Free Libraries, since appointed Librarian of the Bootle Free Public Library.

For 1887 the subject announced by the Council was

THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ENGLISH LIBRARY ECONOMY.

No Essay was sent in.

The subject for 1888 was

THE HISTORY OF PRINTING IN ENGLAND TO THE YEAR 1800.

The successful Essay was written by Mr. W. E. Doubleday, Assistant-Librarian, Nottingham Free Public Libraries; since appointed Librarian of the Marylebone Free Library.

The subject for 1889 was

THE PLACE OF LOCAL BIBLIOGRAPHY IN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

No Essay was sent in.

In the same year Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, one of the Hon. Secretaries, offered a Prize of Ten Guineas for the best

DRAFT OF A CONSOLIDATED AND AMENDED PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL.

Chancellor Christie, Sir John Lubbock and Sir James Picton kindly undertook the duties of judges, and awarded the prize to Messrs. H. W. Fovargue and J. J. Ogle, as joint authors of the best draft.

Mr. MacAlister offered another Prize of Ten Guineas in 1890 for the best Essay on

THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT.

Several Essays were sent in; but, in the opinion of the judges, none was considered worthy of the prize.

For this year (1891) Mr. MacAlister has offered Prizes amounting to TWENTY POUNDS, viz.:-

For an Essay on

HOW TO GET THE ACTS ADOPTED.

First Prize:—TEN POUNDS. Second Prize:—THREE POUNDS.

THREE PRIZES OF TWO POUNDS for the best Essay on each of the following subjects (Competition being limited to Library Assistants):—

- (1) How to make a Library known in its District.
- (2) Comparative merits of the fixed and movable locations.
- (3) Methods of filing periodicals, and preserving pamphlets, prints, maps, &c.

All the foregoing to be sent in by August 8th. (For further particulars see *The Library* for May, 1891).

A Prize of ONE POUND for the best set of Six Leaflets in support of the Adoption of the Acts. (Limited to Library Assistants).



A LIST OF LIBRARIES

SHOWING THOSE REPRESENTED IN THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, AND INCLUDING
AN ENUMERATION OF THE PLACES NOW UNDER THE LIBRARIES

ACTS (ENGLAND) 1855 TO 1890; (SCOTLAND) 1867
TO 1884, AND (IRELAND) 1855 TO 1884.

*The names of towns possessing Libraries under the Acts are printed in
Clarendon type.*

** means that the Library is represented in the Association.*

N.B.—Errors in a list like this are almost inevitable, but the compiler is anxious
to make it as accurate as possible, and will gratefully acknowledge corrections.

Aberdeen : * 1884.
Aberystwith : 1872.
Airdrie : 1856.
Alloa : 1885.
Altrincham : 1889.
Alverstone : 1886.
Arbroath Pub. L. *
Ashton-under-Lyne : * 1869.
Aston Manor : * 1877.
Ayr : 1890.
Banbury Mech. Inst.
Bangor : 1871.
Barking : 1888.
Barnet—Hyde Inst.
Barnsley : 1890.
Barrow-in-Furness : * 1881.
Bebington (Cheshire)—Mayer
Free L.
Bedford : 1889.
Bedford Lit. and Sci. Inst. : *
Belfast : * 1882.
Bideford : 1877.
Bilston : 1870.
Bingley : 1890.
Birkenhead : * 1856.
Birmingham : * 1860.

Birmingham Library *
Birmingham—Mason Coll. : *
Blackburn : 1850.
Blackpool : * 1879.
Bolton : 1852.
Bootle : * 1883.
Bradford : * 1872.
Brechin : 1890.
Brentford : 1889.
Bridgewater : 1860.
Brierley Hill : 1875.
Brighton : * 1872.
Bristol : * 1876.
— Mus. and L. : *
Broughton : 1889.
Burnley Mech. Inst. *
Burslem : 1863.
Buxton : 1886.
Cambridge : * 1853.
Cambridge : University L.
— Corp. Chris. Coll. *
— King's Coll. *
— Queen's Coll. *
— St. John's Coll. *
— Trin. Coll.
Canterbury : 1858.

Cardiff : * 1860.
 Carlisle : 1890.
 Carlton : 1887.
 Carnarvon : 1887.
 Cheltenham : * 1883.
 Chester : * 1874.
 Chesterfield : * 1875.
 Chiswick : 1890.
 Clitheroe : 1878.
 Coleraine : 1881.
 Colombo Museum L., Ceylon.
 Cork : 1855.
 Coventry : 1867.
 Crompton : 1889.
 Croydon : 1888.
 Darlaston : 1876.
 Darlington : * 1883.
 Darwen, Over : * 1871.
 Denton & Haughton : 1887.
 Derby : * 1871.
 Devonport : 1880.
 Dewsbury : 1887.
 Doncaster : 1868.
 Douglas (I. of M.) : * 1886.
 Dublin : 1877.
 Dublin : King's Inns L.*
 — Nat. L. of Irel.*
 — Trin. Coll.
 Dudley : 1878.
 Dumbarton : 1881.
 Dundalk : * 1856.
 Dundee : * 1866.
 Dunfermline : 1880.
 Durham—Bp. Cosin's L.
 — Univ. L.
 Ealing : * 1883.
 Edinburgh : * 1886.
 Edinburgh : Advocates' L.*
 — Signet L.*
 — Subscription L.
 Ennis : 1860.
 Exeter : 1865.
 Exeter : Devon & Exeter Inst.
 Falkirk
 Fleetwood : 1887.
 Folkestone : 1878.
 Forfar : 1870.
 Galashiels : 1872.
 Gateshead : 1880.
 Glasgow : Univ. L.*
 — Athenæum.
 — Baillies' Inst.*
 — Faculty of Phys. & Surg.*
 — Faculty of Procurators.
 — Mitchell L.*
 — Stirling's & Glasg. Pub. L.*
 Glossop : 1883.
 Gosport : * 1886.

Grangemouth — Victoria : 1887.
 Guernsey—Guille-Alles, L.
 Halifax : 1881.
 Handsworth : * 1876.
 Hanley : * 1886.
 Hanley Mech. Inst.
 Harrogate : 1886.
 Hawick : 1878.
 Hereford : * 1872.
 Hertford : 1855.
 Heywood : 1874.
 Hinckley : 1888.
 Hindley : 1885.
 Hollinwood
 Horncastle Mech. Inst.*
 Horwich.
 Hove : 1891.
 Hucknall Torkard : 1884.
 Hull Subscription L.
 Huntley.
 Inverness : 1877.
 Ipswich : 1853.
 Kidderminster : 1855.
 Kingston-on-Thames : 1881.
 Kingstown : 1884.
 Kirkcudbright Institute.*
 Kirkwall : 1890.
 Leamington : * 1856.
 Leeds : 1868.
 Leeds L. (Proprietary) : 1768.
 Leek : 1888.
 Leek Lit. and Mech. Inst.
 Leicester : 1848.
 Leicester Permanent L.
 Leominster : 1889.
 Lichfield : 1856.
 Limerick : 1889.
 Liverpool : * 1852.
 — L. (Proprietary) : 1758.
 LONDON, COUNTY OF, Parishes
 under the Acts.
 Battersea : * 1887.
 Bermondsey : 1887.
 Camberwell : 1889.
 Chelsea : * 1887.
 Clapham : * 1887.
 Clerkenwell : * 1887.
 Dulwich : 1889.
 Fulham : * 1886.
 Hammersmith : * 1887.
 Kensington : * 1887.
 Lambeth : * 1886.
 Lewisham : 1890.
 Newington : 1890.
 Poplar : 1890.
 Putney : 1887.
 Rotherhithe : 1887.

LONDON (continued):—

Southwark (Parish of Christ Church):* 1889.
 St. George, Hanover Square: 1890.
 St. Margaret & St. John, Westminster.*
 St. Martin-in-the-Fields.
 Stoke Newington: 1890.
 Wandsworth.*
 West Ham: 1890.
 Whitechapel: 1889.

Parishes in which Free Libraries are supported by Voluntary Contributions:—

Bethnal Green.*
 Paddington.*
 St. Marylebone.*
 Whitechapel* (People's Palace).

Other Libraries in London:—

Admiralty.*
 Alpine Club.*
 Athenæum Club.*
 Bank of England L. and Lit. Assoc.*
 Birkbeck Inst.*
 British Museum.*
 City Liberal Club.*
 Colonial Office.*
 Deptford—F. Braby & Co.'s Working Men's Club & L.*
 Entomological Soc.*
 Gray's Inn.*
 Guildhall Corporation L.*
 Incorporated Law Soc.*
 Inner Temple.*
 London Institution (Subs.)*
 London L. (Subs.)*
 London Society of Compositors.
 Middle Temple.*
 Museum of Practical Geology.*
 National Liberal Club: Gladstone Library.*
 Natural History Museum.*
 Obstetrical Society.
 Patent Office.*
 Pharmaceutical Society.*
 Royal Astronomical Society.*
 Royal College of Surgeons.*

LONDON (continued):—

Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society.*
 Royal Microscopical Society.
 St. Paul's Cathedral.*
 Shorthand Writers' Assoc.*
 Sion College.*
 South Kensington Museum—Dyce and Forster Collections.
 Statistical Society.*
 Sunday School Union.*
 Working Men's Club and Institute Union.*
 Loughborough: 1885.
 Luton.
 Macclesfield: 1874.
 Madeley.
 Maidstone: 1855.
 Manchester:* 1852.
 Manchester: Lancashire Independent Coll.
 — Medical Soc. (Owens Coll.)
 — Owens Coll.*
 Mansfield: 1890.
 Middlesbrough:* 1870.
 Middleton: 1887.
 Middlewich: 1889.
 Millom: 1887.
 Moss Side: 1887.
 Nantwich: 1887.
 Nelson: 1889.
 New Swindon — G. W. R. Mech. Inst.*
 Newark-on-Trent: 1881.
 Newcastle-on-Tyne:* 1874.
 — Lit. & Philos. Inst.
 Newcastle-under-Lyne: 1883.
 Newport (Mon.): 1870.
 Newton Heath: 1887.
 Northampton: 1876.
 Northwich: 1883.
 Norwich:* 1850.
 — Norfolk & Norwich Lit. Inst.*
 Nottingham: 1867.
 — Mech. Inst.
 Oldbury: 1888.
 Oldham:* Local Act.
 Oswestry: 1890.
 Oxford: 1855.
 — Bodleian L.*
 — Exeter Coll.*
 — Radcliffe L. (Mus.)*
 Paisley: 1867.

- Penrith: * 1881.
 Perth Mech. L.*
 Peterhead: 1890.
 Plymouth: * 1871.
 Pontypridd: 1887.
 Poole: 1885.
 Portsmouth: 1878.
 Preston: * 1878.
 Queenborough: 1887.
 Rathmines (and Rathgar): 1887.
 Reading: 1877.
 Richmond: 1879.
 Rochdale: 1870.
 Rotherham: 1867.
 Rugby: 1890.
 Runcorn: 1881.
 St. Albans: 1878.
 St. Andrew's Univ. L.*
 St. Helens: 1889.
 Sale: 1890.
 Salford: * 1849.
 Salisbury: 1890.
 Selkirk: 1889.*
 Sheffield: * 1853.
 Shrewsbury: 1883.
 Sittingbourne: 1887.
 Sligo: 1866.
 Smethwick: * 1876.
 South Shields: 1871.
 Southampton: 1887.
 — Hartley Instn.
 Southport: 1875.
 Stafford: * 1879.
 — William Salt L.*
 Stalybridge: 1888.
 Stockport: * 1861.
 Stockton-on-Tees: 1874.
 Stoke-on-Trent: 1875.
 Stroud.
 Sunderland (Local Act, 1866).
 Swansea: * 1870.
 Sydney, N. South Wales.*
 Tamworth: 1881.
 Tarves: 1884.
 Tavistock.
 Thurso: 1872.
 Tipton: 1883.
 Todmorden.
 Tonbridge: 1882.
 Truro: * 1885.
 Tunstall: 1885.
 Twickenham: 1882.
 Tynemouth: 1869.
 Walsall: 1867.
 Warminster.
 Warrington: * 1847.
 Warwick: 1865.
 Watford: * 1871.
 Wednesbury: 1876.
 Wellingborough.
 Welshpool: 1887.
 Weston-super-Mare: 1886.
 West Bromwich: * 1870.
 Whitehaven: 1887.
 Wick: 1887.
 Widnes: 1886.
 Wigan: * 1876.
 Willenhall: 1874.
 Wimbledon: 1883.
 Winchester: 1851.
 Windsor—Her Majesty's L.*
 Winsford: 1887.
 Wolverhampton: 1869.
 Woolton: 1890.
 Woolwich—Royal Arsenal
 Co-operative Society.
 Worcester: 1879.
 Workington: 1890.
 Wrexham: * 1878.
 Yarmouth (Gt.): * 1885.
 York Sub. L.





LIST OF MEMBERS.

(Corrected to July, 1891).

The Hon. Secretaries request that they may be informed of changes of address and of any errors or omissions in this List of Members.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

- BAIN (J.), Chief Librarian, Public Library, Toronto.
BALZANI (Conte Ugo), 11, Via dei Mille, Rome.
BOWKER (R. R.), *Publisher's Weekly*, New York.
BRUUN (CHRISTIAN W.), Librarian, Kongelige Bibliothek, Copenhagen.
CUTTER (CHARLES A.), Librarian, Boston Athenæum, Boston, U.S.
DELISLE (L.), Administrateur Général, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.
DEPPING (G.), Bibliothécaire, Bibliothèque Ste. Geneviève, Paris.
DEWEY (Professor MELVIL), State Librarian, New York.
DEWEY (Mrs. MELVIL).
DZIATZKO (Prof. CARL), Oberbibliothekar, Universitäts-bibliothek, Göttingen.
EVANS (C.), late Librarian, Public Library, Indianapolis, U.S.
GABRIEL (H.), Conservateur, Bibliothèque de la Ville de Grenoble, France.
GREEN (S. S.) Librarian, Public Library, Worcester, Mass., U.S.
GUILD (Dr. R. A.), Librarian, Brown University Library, Providence, R.I.
HALLAM (J.), Chairman of the Public Library Board, Toronto.
JACKSON (F.) Superintendent of Public Library, Newton, Mass. U.S.
MARSEY (Comte de), Administrateur-Adjoint, Bibliothèque de la Ville, Compiègne.
MONDINO (Prof. B. S.), Vice-Librarian, Biblioteca Nazionale, Palermo.
PETIT (JULES), Assistant Keeper, Bibliothèque Royale, Brussels.
POOLE (WILLIAM F.), Librarian, Newbery Library, Chicago, U.S.
ROGERS (T. P. W.), Librarian, Fletcher's Library, Burlington, Vt., U.S.
ROPES (Rev. W. L.), Librarian, Andover Theological Seminary, Mass. U.S.
SACHOT (OCTAVE), Rédacteur, Journal Officiel, Paris.
SANDS (ALEXANDER), Cincinnati, U.S.
SELIGMANN (Dr. LEOPOLD).
THORSEN (P. G.), Librarian, Universitets-bibliothek, Copenhagen.
TINGLEY (Prof. J.), Librarian, Alleghany College, Meadville, Pa., U.S.
VICKERS (Rev. T.), University of Cincinnati, U.S.
WATTEVILLE (Baron O. de), late Director of Sciences and Letters, Ministère de l'Instruction Publique, Boulevard Malesherbes, 6, Paris.
WINSOR (JUSTIN), Librarian, Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

- ACLAND (Prof. Sir HENRY W.), Librarian, Radcliffe Library, Oxford. (*Life*)
 ADDINSELL (S. A.), 4, Blackburne Terrace, Liverpool.
 AGAR (T. J.), 9, Bucklersbury, E.C. *Auditor*.
 ANDERSON (JAMES M.), Librarian, University Library, St. Andrews.
 ANGUS (J.), Hon. Librarian, Institute, Kirkeudbright.
 ANNANDALE (CHARLES), M.A., LL.D., Dixon Avenue, Crosshill, Glasgow.
 ARCHER (WM.), Librarian, National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin.
 ARNISON (Major W. B.) (Chairman Free Public Library), Penrith, Cumberland.
 ASHTON (R.), Librarian, Free Library and Museum, Blackburn.
 ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE FREE LIBRARY.
 ASPINALL (W.), Pemberton, near Wigan.
 ATCHLEY (C.), Librarian, Colonial Office, Whitehall, S.W.
 AUDLEY (G. T.), 32, Festing Street, Hanley.
 AUSTEN (R.), Free Public Library, Reading.
 AXON (W. E. A.), Armytage, Ashley Road, Bowdon, Manchester.
 BAILEY (J. B.), Librarian, Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.
 BAILEY (J. C.), Librarian, Free Library, Smethwick.
 BAILEY (Alderman W. H.), Summerfield, Eccles New Road, Salford. (*Life*)
 BALLINGER (JOHN), Librarian, Free Library, Cardiff.
 BARK (Dr.), Chairman, Free Library, Bootle.
 BARRETT (FRAS. T.), Librarian, Mitchell Library, Miller Street, Glasgow.
 BARRETT (F. T., Jun.), Free Church College, Glasgow.
 BARROW (Mr. Alderman R. C.), Lawn House, Ampton Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
 BARROW-IN-FURNESS FREE LIBRARY.
 BARTON (THOMAS BEECH), 13, Temple Row, Wrexham.
 BATTERSEA PUBLIC LIBRARIES.
 BAXTER (WYNNE E.), 9, Laurence Pountney Hill, E.C. (*Life*)
 BELL (G.), Miles's Library, Upper Street, Islington, N.
 BENNETT (W. H.), 370, Oxford Street, W.
 BETLEY (RALPH), Swinley Road, Wigan.
 BIRCH (ALFRED J.), Librarian, G. W. R. Mechanics' Institution, New Swindon.
 BIRMINGHAM FREE LIBRARIES.
 BISHOP (LUKE), Englefield, Cookham.
 BLAKE (W. F.), 29, Brunswick Gardens, Campden Hill, W.
 BOASE (Rev. CHARLES W.), Librarian, Exeter College, Oxford.
 BOASE (F.), Librarian, Incorporated Law Society, Chancery Lane, W.C.
 BOASE (G. C.), 36, James Street, Buckingham Gate, S.W.
 BOLTON FREE LIBRARY.
 BOND (EDWARD A.), C.B., LL.D. (late Principal Librarian, British Museum), 64, Princes Square, Bayswater, W.
 BONE (JOHN W.), 26, Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C. (*Life*).
 BONNER (T.), Librarian, Free Library, Ealing, W.
 BORRAJO (EDWARD M.), Senior Sub-librarian, Guildhall Library.
 BOWEN (HORACE G.), Chairman, Managing Committee, Bank of England Library and Literary Institution, E.C.

- BOWES (ROBERT), Trinity Street, Cambridge.
 BRABY (F.), Bushey Lodge, Teddington.
 BRADLEY (A.), Hon. Sec., Public Library, Wrexham.
 BRAMWELL (W. S.), Free Public Library, Preston.
 BRASSINGTON (W. R.), New Manor House, Moseley, Birmingham.
 BRASSINGTON (W. SALT), New Manor House, Moseley, Birmingham.
 BRISCOE (J. POTTER), Librarian, Free Public Libraries, Nottingham.
 BRITTAIN (Alderman W. H.), Free Public Library Committee, Sheffield.
 BROOK (R. G.), Wolverhampton House, St. Helens.
 BROUGH (WILLIAM S.), Hon. Sec., Literary and Mechanics' Institute, Leek.
 BROWN (JAMES D.), Librarian, Free Public Library, Clerkenwell, Skinner Street, E.C.
 BROWN (J. ROBERTS), 14, Hilldrop Road, Camden Road, N.
 BRUCE (Lord CHARLES), 77, Pall Mall, S.W.
 BUCKLAND (J. D.), Librarian, Free Public Library, Stockport.
 BULLEN (GEORGE), C.B., LL.D., late Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum, 62, Abingdon Road, Kensington.
 BURGOYNE (FRANK J.), Librarian, Lambeth Public Libraries, Knight's Hill Road, S.E.
 BURNS (HENRY), Librarian, Free Public Library, Fulham, S.W.
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Library Association of the United Kingdom,
1891.

REPORT ON LIBRARY APPLIANCES.

To the Council of the Library Association of the United Kingdom.

GENTLEMEN,—

The terms of the reference from the Council as to the scope of this Report were to the effect that appliances of recent years should be examined, but that attention was not necessarily to be confined to devices used in libraries alone. Bearing this instruction in mind, I have endeavoured to procure information about everything recently introduced, as well as regarding many appliances which have been long in existence, though perhaps not widely known.

For the purposes of this report the definition of library appliances is mechanical contrivances designed to carry on or facilitate the work of a library, but excluding such as are connected with structural arrangements. I therefore include furniture, fittings and certain articles of stationery, but exclude any apparatus connected with heating, lighting, ventilation, or means of access. Owing to difficulties in the way of ascertaining exactly when and by whom any appliance was first introduced, some caution has been observed in dealing with the subject, and any opinions expressed will of course be understood to be my own, and not in any way to bind or compromise the Association. The question of originality in library methods is indeed a troublesome one, and many progressive librarians who have meditated new departures are often disgusted to find that their inventive labours have been anticipated by some one else who flourished long before the epoch of indicators and dictionary catalogues. But this experience is universal, as may be seen by a careful perusal of the patents specifications, and need not therefore discourage future exploiters in the field of library economics.

For convenience' sake I shall divide the subject matter into two parts, dealing first with fittings and furniture, and then with service or minor appliances.

BOOKCASES.

I have not been able to find anything absolutely new either in the structure or fittings of bookcases, and will consequently rely upon some features probably not generally known to justify this sub-heading. You are all doubtless familiar with that indispensable adjunct of a librarian's office sometimes termed the "American revolver," better known as the revolving bookcase, and warranted to hold considerably less than its advertisers claim; but probably only a few are acquainted with the convenient cast iron bookcases manufactured by Messrs. Lucy and Co., of Oxford, which were shown to members of this Association in the Radcliffe Library in 1878. In certain positions, and especially if wanted to carry much dead weight, these cases will be found useful and durable. The shelves can be adjusted to distances of an inch or thereabout, and the cases are compact, extremely rigid and not unsightly. Their price is greater than wooden presses the same size, namely, 7ft. 6in. high by 4ft. 1in. wide by 1ft. 3in. deep; but of course the advantages of security and strength must be held to be compensating features, to say nothing of their everlasting qualities and adaptability to all sorts of situations. The movable iron cases swung in the galleries of the British Museum, which were shown to this Association in 1889, are worthy of passing mention as a bold method of overcoming the great congestion difficulty; but, of course, they could only be adapted to the special structural arrangements of the Museum. No shelf fitting we have seen can compete with the well-known perforated metal strip of Messrs. E. Tonks and Son, of Birmingham, in the qualities of neatness and ease of adjustability, although there are many cheaper; and I have seen nothing more suitable for Press marking, where the fixed location is used, than the numbered or lettered enamelled iron and copper tablets which are being largely introduced for this and other purposes. I am not sure if librarians will regard as a legitimate appliance the bookcase, which is also a chest of drawers and a bedstead; but it is perhaps worthy of mention for its suggestion of infinite possibilities in the direction of the "multiplication of the principle of utility." Who can say to

what degree this extension of capability will be carried, especially in the way of providing cheap and convenient accommodation on the premises for librarians and their family gods? A rather interesting piece of furniture is notified from Glasgow. It consists of a combined bookcase, desk, and cabinet of drawers, and is intended to form a sort of ornamental rostrum, from which a superintendent can overlook the reading room of the Mitchell Library, and deal out supplies from its inexhaustible drawers as from the wallet of Fortunatus. The drawing submitted shows plans and sections of this most capacious and lordly piece of furniture.

RACKS AND STANDS FOR PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS.

Librarians are divided into several camps of opinion as regards the treatment of the current numbers of periodicals. It is maintained by one set that they should be spread all over the tables of the reading room in any order, to ensure that all shall receive plenty of attention at the *hands* of readers, whether they are wanted or not for perusal. Another section also holds the opinion that the periodicals in covers should be spread over the tables, but in some recognised order, alphabetical or otherwise. Yet another section will have it that this latter spreading should be accompanied by fixing, and that each cover should be fastened in its place on the table. Finally, a large section think that the magazines, &c., should be kept off the tables entirely, and be arranged in racks where they will be accessible without littering the room, and at the same time serve as a sort of indicator to periodicals which are in or out of use. For the first plan no special appliance is needful, but the periodicals ought to be well shuffled before being distributed. Nothing soothes the long-suffering ratepayer so much as an evening ramble among reading room tables in search of some magazine which may be either in use or buried under some of its neighbours. For the unfixed alphabetical arrangement, several appliances have been introduced. At Manchester, the periodicals are arranged on raised desks along the middle of the tables. At St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, a somewhat similar plan has been adopted; while in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, each table is surmounted by a platform raised on brackets, which carries the magazine covers, without altogether obstructing the reader's view of the room and his neighbours. Each periodical is given a certain place on the elevated carriers, and this is indicated to the reader by a label fixed on the rail

behind the cover. On the cover itself is stamped the name of the periodical and its table number. Each table has a list of the periodicals belonging to it shown in a glazed tablet at the outer end of the platform support. The drawing submitted shows this plan clearly, and will save needless description. Wolverhampton furnishes a very good instance of the fixed arrangement. There, each periodical is fastened to its table by a rod, and has appropriated to it a chair, so that removal and disarrangement cannot occur. The rack system has many advocates, and can be seen both in libraries and clubs in quite a variety of styles. At the London Institution there is an arrangement of rails and narrow beaded shelves on the wall, which holds a large number of periodicals not in covers, and seems to work very well. The rails are fastened horizontally about two inches from the walls at a distance above the small shelf sufficient to hold and keep upright the periodicals proposed to be placed on it, and a small label bearing a title being fixed on the rail, the corresponding periodical is simply dropped behind it on to the shelf and so remains located. A similar style of rail-rack has been introduced for time tables, &c., in several libraries, and has been found very useful. The rough drawing shown will give an idea of its structure and appearance. Another style of periodical rack is that invented by Mr. Alfred Cotgreave, whereby periodicals are displayed on two sides of a large board, and secured in their places by means of clips. The earlier form of this rack is doubtless tolerably familiar to you all, but quite recently the inventor has effected several improvements, which can be seen in the model now on exhibition. The ordinary clip-rack used largely by newsvendors has been often introduced in libraries where floor space was not available, and is very convenient for keeping in order the shoals of presented periodicals, which live and die like mushrooms, and scarcely ever justify the expense of a cover. An improvement on the usual perpendicular wall-rack just mentioned is that manufactured by Messrs. Smith and Co., of Chelsea, which revolves on a stand, and can be made to hold two or three dozen periodicals or newspapers, according to dimensions and style required.

The racks just mentioned are all designed to hold periodicals without covers, but there are several kinds in existence for holding them in their covers. Among such are the table supports, in metal and wood, on the same principle as shelf

book-holders, in which the magazines lie in their cases on their fore-edges, and are distinguished by having the titles lettered along the back or otherwise. An example of this was seen at Reading last year, and I have seen a somewhat similar plan in other places. The cabinet of shallow shelves in which the covers lie flat or stand upright is an old device, and is not often used now, unless for special purposes. Probably the best of all the racks devised for periodicals in their cases is that on the system of overlapping sloping shelves, worked out, we believe, by Messrs. Jones and Rowlatt, of the Kensington Public Libraries. The drawings and model submitted show the general plan of the rack, but of course it is susceptible of all sorts of ornamental refinements and improvements. The idea of this rack is simply that the covers should lie on the shelves with only the title exposed. They are retained in place by a beading just deep enough to afford a catch for one cover and so avoid the chance of their being hidden by another periodical laid above. We have seen nothing more economical as regards space and convenience in use anywhere, and can speak from personal experience of three or four different systems as to its superiority over them all in many important particulars. Before quitting this part of the subject, it may be as well to say that we have looked in vain for the ideal magazine cover. There seems to be no material as at present used which will resist, for more than a few years, the rough handling received both in racks and on tables, and our examination of wood, leather, various cloths, such as canvas, jute, fustian, &c., mill-boards, and even celluloid, has resulted in nothing more satisfactory than the conclusion that neither librarian nor bookbinder has succeeded in producing a cover which will last with ordinary usage even three years, without becoming a reproach to modern sanitation or a threnody in rags.

The day has not yet come when octavo-sized newspapers will obviate the necessity for expensive and obstructive stands on which the day's news is spread in the manner least conducive to the comfort of readers. The man who runs and reads has no necessity for much study, while he who stands and reads does so with the consciousness that at any moment he may be elbowed from his studies by impatient news-seekers, and be subjected to the added discomfort of being made a leaning pillar for half-a-dozen persons to embrace. No improvement of any importance has to be noted on the ordinary type of newspaper

stand, and we have examined many, from the imposing Lambeth ones with their Ben Nevis upward sweep, to the common deal contrivances which rock while you turn the journal. Of holders, however, there are several styles which merit passing notice. The brass rod with the weight at the end is now almost obsolete, as also is the padlock and staple; but they have been superseded in more recent libraries by lighter and handsomer contrivances. The spring rod which opens with a railway key is very effective if you don't lose the key, and so are those with the thumb screws. The holder known as Cuming's Patent is probably familiar to most of you; it has several good points, but seems to be rather easily tampered with by persons who will keep fingering till they find the paper slipping to the floor. There are several varieties of holders for use apart from stands, chiefly used in clubs and coffee-houses, and of these we are able to show you the "Marlborough" Holder, Lyle's patent, which seems excellent for the purpose. A rack is made to hold a number of these. Reference might be made here to the plan adopted at Wigan of displaying the daily newspapers in glazed upright frames, whereby both sides of a paper are exhibited at once, and so can accommodate two sets of readers. This seems to demand a considerable amount of space, and more than one stand for double journals.

INDICATORS.

I shall not attempt to say anything in justification of the Indicator, as against the various ledger and card-recording systems in use, because it is assumed that everyone here has already made up his mind on the subject. It will be sufficient to mention a few of the more recent efforts in the direction of providing mechanical intermediaries between the readers and books of a library. There are models or drawings of them all here so that much explanation is luckily not needful. The Elliot and Cotgreave Book Indicators are already so well known as to require no special mention, and we may therefore pass on to more recent devices of a similar kind. The frame of the Indicator invented by Mr. Bonner, of Ealing, is made to hold little five-sided blocks, on each side of which the number appears on a differently coloured ground, say black, red, blue, green and brown, and it is by the changing of these colours that books are indicated "Out," "In," or "Overdue." By reason of the shape of the blocks and the Indicator openings, two sides of each block

are seen on the staff side of the counter, but by regarding the colour to the left as the one which marks the period of issue, no difficulty should be found in working the system. If Blue represents books *In*, any of the other colours showing at the front will be out. Thus suppose you take Brown to indicate the first week's issue, Green the second, Blue the third, and Red the fourth, a complete series of changes is effected, and when Red is the current colour the Browns and Greens will be overdue. Black, of course, always indicates to the assistant that books are in. The merit of this Indicator consists in what its inventor calls its "self-contained" character, that is, no extra appliance or process is necessary to denote the period of issue at the moment of service beyond the simple turning of the blocks. The record of issue is kept in a day book, and the borrowers' cards are left in the Indicator on the numbers of the books issued. The front of this Indicator has space for the brief titles of the books represented, and only occupies about 3ft. 3in. for every 2,000 numbers. The "Duplex" Indicator, invented by Mr. A. W. Robertson, of Aberdeen, has several novel features which call for attention. It was fully described by the inventor in the *Library*, 1890, p. 21, and we can only hope that you all recollect what he said, as it is rather difficult to explain. However, with the models at hand, we shall endeavour to show its working plainly. To begin with, a full-sized Duplex Indicator occupies 5ft. 4in. of counter space for every 2,000 numbers, while a smaller pattern for a similar number occupies 3ft. 8in. of counter space, both being 4ft. high. This Indicator is also a catalogue, and the numbers and titles of books are given on every block. Each block has a removable and reversible sheet for carrying a record consisting of borrower's number, number in Ticket-Register, and date of issue. The Borrowers' cards are made of wood, and also bear a removable slip for noting the numbers of books read. Let us now suppose that Miss Mary Gray, No. 10,103, asks for book No. 210 (Maxwell's *Theory of Heat*). The assistant proceeds first to the Indicator and removes the block, which bears on its surface the location marks and accession number of the book. He then carries Miss Gray's number on to the block, and having got and issued the book, leaves the block and card on a tray. Let us suppose that Messrs. Smith, Johnstone and Miss Sinclair are also served at the same time. This is all that is done at the moment of issue, and it is simple enough. Mr. Robertson,

however, postpones most of his registration till another time, doubtless when a number of issues have been made and the staff are not very busy. The assistant who does this registration takes a tray of blocks and cards and sits down in front of the Ticket Register, which is a frame divided into compartments, consecutively numbered up to 500 or more, and bearing the date of issue. He then selects a card and block, carries the book number on to the borrower's card, and the number of the first vacant Ticket Register compartment, with the date, on to the book block, and leaves the borrower's card in the Register. Probably the statistical returns will also be made up at this time. The blocks are then placed reversed in the Indicator, and so are shown out to the public. When No. 210 is returned, the assistant proceeds to the Indicator to turn the block, and while doing so notes the date and Register number, and then removes and returns the borrower's card. By this process the Ticket Register is gradually weeded, till on the expiry of the period during which books can be kept without fine, all tickets remaining are removed to the Overdue Register, which bears the same date, and are placed in its compartments according to the order of the Ticket Register. A slip bearing those numbers is pinned down the side of the Overdue Register so that defaulters can easily be found. No. 3 of the Ticket Register issued on September 3rd becomes No. 3 of the Overdue Register. There are twelve Ticket and twelve Overdue Registers, and each represents one day in a working fortnight, the whole when in operation covering a period of four weeks. Of course by keeping a separate Ticket Register for every day in a month or more the Overdue Register would not be required, but the expense of having so many large registers would be great, not to speak of the space occupied. When the defaulting borrower returns his overdue book, the assistant will not find the card in the Ticket Register, hence the necessity of looking in a different place at once indicates that the book is fined. Books which are overdue longer than a fortnight are, we presume, removed, and the borrowers at once notified in the usual way. These are the main working features of the "Duplex" Indicator. There are one or two points on which remarks might be made, and possibly one or two librarians present can add others. The first advantage possessed by this Indicator lies in its undoubted value as a rough catalogue; a second consists in the automatic manner in which overdue books are eliminated with certainty;

and a third is the rapidity with which borrowers can be served. But there are several points which seem to us not altogether so favourable, and among them are these:—The counter space occupied is very considerable, 32ft. lineal being required for 12,000 numbers, or 22ft. of the smaller size for the same quantity. It is thus the largest Indicator in use excepting the full-sized Elliot, which occupies 36ft. for every 12,000 volumes. The comparative dimensions of the various indicators in the market are as follow:—

Counter space required for 12,000

numbers	...	Cotgreave, 15ft. lineal.
Ditto	ditto	Elliot (condensed), 16ft.
Ditto	ditto	Bonner, about 19ft. 6in.
Ditto	ditto	Duplex (small), 22ft.
Ditto	ditto	Duplex (full), 32ft.
Ditto	ditto	Elliot (full), 36ft.

The counter space required would therefore prove objectionable in many libraries. It seems to us also that errors of many kinds must be almost unavoidable because of the amount of handling the cards and blocks undergo, and we should imagine that the accidental upsetting of a tray of the blocks would involve a great deal of labour before matters could be readjusted, especially as the cross entries on the borrower's cards are not made till the end of the process. Mr. Robertson asserts, however, that the whole system works smoothly, and we presume accurately, so that the opinion of anyone who has not actually had some extended experience of the system cannot be accepted as of much value. Two other recently-introduced Indicators for Lending Libraries are those for magazine issues designed by Messrs. John Elliot and Alfred Cotgreave. They are both simply modifications of the Book Indicators of their respective inventors, and as such require no particular description. A rough Indicator for use in Reference Libraries has been used at Clerkenwell, for the purpose of saving readers the trouble of filling up forms for books already in use, and the staff from the labour of sending down a list for books similarly engaged. It is shown in the drawing submitted as a series of hinged black-board flaps in a glazed frame, which, under appropriate class letters or series of numerals, carry the numbers of books which are in use or at the binders. It is of very little use unless in large libraries where the running accession number is used in the catalogue, and which issue 200 or 300 vols. daily; or in libraries

where exigencies of arrangement demand a method of saving time and trouble on both sides of the counter. The book numbers are chalked in the proper compartment on issue, and rubbed out on return. The inventor was not surprised to learn some time since that the idea had been worked out thirty years ago. For working his Indicator without separate slides or clips, Mr. Cotgreave has recently introduced a slide ticket, giving four or five changes, and lessening to a great extent the labour of handling the date clips used with the same Indicator. A specimen is now submitted, and it may be added that there are other shaped tickets used which effectively serve the same purpose.

CHARGING SYSTEMS.

Librarians are continually lamenting the dearth of material for interesting papers or discussible subjects, yet, here is one actually clamouring for attention which is very seldom mentioned in this country save as an adjunct of some indicator or system of location. I only propose at this time to mention the card or pocket systems, which claim as special features rapidity of service, and the abolition of both Ledgers and Indicators. There are several systems in existence both in Britain and the United States, but I dare not assign priority to any one of them. At Bradford a pocket system has long been in use. It is worked as follows:—Every book has attached to one of the inner sides of its boards a linen pocket, with a Table of Months for dating, and an abstract of the Lending Rules. Within this pocket is a card on which are the number and class of the book, its title and author. To each reader is issued on joining a cloth-covered card and a pocket made of linen, having on one side the Borrower's Number, Name, Address, &c., and on the other side a calendar. The pockets are kept in numerical order at the Library, and the readers retain their cards. When "Mr. John Smith, No. 1807," wishes a book, he hands in a list of numbers and his card to the assistant, who procures the first book he finds in, say, "East Lynne," B 21, Class E. He next selects from the numerical series of pockets the one numbered, "1807, John Smith." The title card is then removed from the book and placed in the reader's numbered pocket, and the date is written in the date column of the book pocket. This completes the process at the time of service. At night the day's issues are classified and arranged in the order of the book numbers, after

the statistics are made up and noted in the sheet ruled for the purpose, and are then placed in a box bearing the date of issue. When a book is returned the assistant turns up its date of issue, proceeds to the box of that date, and removes the title card, which he replaces in the book. The borrower's pocket is then restored to its place among its fellows. The advantages of this plan are greater rapidity of service as compared with the Ledger systems, and a mechanical weeding out of over-dues somewhat similar to what is obtained by the "Duplex" Indicator system. Its disadvantages are the absence of permanent record, and the dangers which must exist of title-cards getting into the wrong pockets, and so placing the whole system at the mercy of accident.

A system on somewhat similar lines is worked at Liverpool and Chelsea, the difference being that in these Libraries a record is made of the issues of books, and books read by borrowers. It need not be further noticed now, as we believe a description of the system by one or other of its workers will one day be offered to the Association. Mr. George Parr, of the London Institution, is the inventor of the best card-ledger we have ever seen, and though it has been in use for a number of years its merits do not seem to be either recognised or widely known. The main feature of this system, which was described at Manchester in 1879, is a fixed alphabetical series of borrowers' names on cards, behind which other cards descriptive of books issued are placed. The system is worked as follows: Every book has a pocket inside the board somewhat similar to that used at Bradford and Chelsea, in which is a card bearing the title and number of the book. When the book is issued the card is simply withdrawn and placed, with a coloured card to show the date, behind the borrower's card in the Register. When it is returned the title card is simply withdrawn from behind the borrower's card, replaced in the book, and the transaction is complete. This is the brief explanation of its working, but Mr. Parr has introduced many refinements and devices whereby almost any question that can be raised as regards who has a book, when it was issued, and what book a given person has, can be answered without much labour. The special form of card ledger, of which a model is before us, shows the system exactly as it is worked in the London Institution, and there it seems to be entirely satisfactory. As regards its application to a popular public library, the absence of a

permanent record would in most cases be deemed objectionable, but there seems no reason why, with certain modifications, it could not be adapted to the smaller libraries, where neither pocket systems nor indicators are in use. Indeed, Mr. Parr's very ingenious and admirable system has suggested to us what seems in theory a workable plan for any library up to 10,000 volumes. Instead of making a fixed alphabet of borrowers, as in Mr. Parr's model, have a series of cards on the same principle of every book in the library in numerical order, distributed in hundreds and tens, shown by projections, to facilitate finding. Have a label in each book ruled to take the borrower's number and date of issue, and a borrower's card like that used for Mr. Elliot's Indicator, ruled to take the book numbers only. When a book is asked for all that the assistant has to do is to write its number in the borrower's card, the number of the borrower's card and the date on the book label, and then to issue the book, having left the borrower's card in the Register. The period of issue could be indicated by differently coloured cards to meet the over-due question, and a simple day-sheet ruled for class letters and numbers of books issued would serve for statistical purposes. The register of book numbers could be used as an indicator by the staff in many cases, and such a plan would be as easily worked, as economical, and as accurate as most of the charging systems in use. This suggestion is made with the full confidence that some one will presently announce that such a system has been worked somewhere for the past fifty years.

CATALOGUING APPLIANCES.

This sub-heading does not trench on the ground of any other reporter, being confined to the methods of production rather than to what is produced. The card-catalogue has of recent years been making much headway, and there are a number of appliances in the way of cabinets, cards, &c., which are worth mention. Various styles of cabinet are in use at the Guildhall and Royal College of Surgeons, London, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Battersea, Clerkenwell, Nottingham, &c., and Messrs. Stone, of Banbury, have sent a specimen of the style in which they have made them for different libraries. Cards are made of all sizes and qualities of board, but in a very much used catalogue the best hard cards will prove most durable and cheapest in the long run. At Newcastle-on-Tyne a linen-mounted card is used,

and different colours are made to distinguish author and subject entries. The typewriter for cataloguing and listing purposes does not appear to have made great progress in Britain, and a word here may serve to draw more attention to this very useful appliance. It may be said that the little cheap concerns called typewriters are of no use for the purpose indicated, and that only the best type-bar writers are of service. With one of these, first-rate results can be obtained in the way of manifold copies of clear, printed entries, suitable for mounting on cards, or posting in the rooms as lists of additions. Indeed, the purposes to which a good typewriter can be applied are endless, and every public library, in a position to do so, should obtain one as soon as possible. But not, however, without very careful enquiry being made regarding which to adopt. Indeed, intending purchasers should make a point of trying several before deciding, as there seem to be rather perplexing statements abroad touching the relative superiority of the different machines. Anyone who makes a conscientious examination of the "Caligraph," the "English," the "Hammond," the "Remington," and the "Yost" typewriter, and satisfies himself that he has selected the best, will not go far astray. Another catalogue appliance is the accession frame, or device for making public all recent additions to the Library. Of these there are several, but we need only mention a few as typical of the rest. At some libraries a glazed case with shelves is placed on the counter, and in this new books are displayed with their titles towards the public. It seems to work very well, and has been used with success at Lambeth to make known different classes of literature which are not so popular as they should be. Liverpool has, or had, a series of frames in which were movable blocks carrying the titles of additions, but I am led to believe that for some reason this has been abandoned. Cardiff shows additions in a frame holding title cards which can be removed by readers and handed over the counter as demand notes. I have not ascertained how this answers. Latest of all is the ingenious cylindrical catalogue holder or stand invented by Mr. Mason, of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, one of the Association's secretaries, which is shown in actual work. It consists of a broad revolving cylinder, upon the outer rim of which are placed a number of wooden bars, each wide enough to take a written or printed author and title entry. These bars are moveable, being designed to slide round the whole circum-

ference of the cylinder, so that additions can be inserted at any part of the alphabet. Each bar represents a book-title, and the plan of using is that the titles of additions should be mounted on the bars, leaving spaces for additions, and so afford a convenient and easily worked accession list in strict alphabetical order. The cylinder is intended to be fixed in a counter front or special stand, and to be all covered in with the exception of a portion about equal to the size of a demy octavo page, which will show under glass. The reader turns the cylinder round to the part of the alphabet he wants by simply operating a handle, and so the whole is shown to him without any waste of public space. A series of these cylinders spaced out in a row at reasonable distances should accommodate a number of readers at a time, and if each cylinder represented a class, a greater number of persons could be satisfied at once. It is claimed for this catalogue holder that it occupies much less space than a wall list, is easily kept up to date, and can be constantly taken from or added to as occasion arises. It might also be used as a stand for the general catalogue of a small library.

MISCELLANEOUS APPLIANCES.

Boxes for holding pamphlets and prints, or for filing magazines are made in a variety of styles. Some of them are shown in this exhibition of appliances, and among such, special mention should be made of those manufactured by Messrs. Marlborough, Gould and Co., London, Messrs. Fincham and Co., London, and Messrs. Stone and Son, Banbury, all different, and all possessing merits of their own. For general library purposes, however, pamphlet or print boxes made in a style similar to those shown by Messrs. Fincham and Co. will be found most convenient. There is a quite a variety of book-holders, or bookrests, as these useful appliances are variously termed. The rectangular rest of Messrs. Braby and Co. is well known, as also is that of French or American origin, recognised in recent years as "Mason's Patent." Another Mason—one of our secretaries, to wit—is also again to the fore as a designer, with iron and wire holders purposely made to resist pressure. Mr. Robertson, of Aberdeen, has sent a holder which seems very strong and serviceable, though the grooving of the shelf may be considered by many a disadvantage. Mr. Davis, of Islington, London, has introduced a holder somewhat after the principle of a screw jack, the idea being to give support to tall books by afford-

ing a stay throughout the height of the volume. It is simply put on the shelf and screwed round till the top is firmly pressed against the bottom of the shelf above. Professor Lund, of Manchester, is the patentee of a "Shelf-Classification of Books in Libraries" which includes an appliance for keeping books upright. This consists of a sort of elaborate reversal of Mr. Robertson's plan, the groove with a ratchet arrangement running along the under side of shelves to give support to books below by means of sliding and hanging wire-holders. The illustration submitted will show better than can be described the form of holder indicated. Stamps for marking books seem to be almost unchanged in style, rubber and metal inking, and embossing and perforating stamps being still holders of the field. Rubber stamps are very largely used for dating and all marking purposes, but, unfortunately, very little trust can be placed in the permanency of the ordinary inks supplied with them. Mr. J. B. Bailey, of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, has been so curious as to experiment with the ordinary inks, and has discovered that they are useless for the permanent marking of books. It would be unwise to mention the various ways in which such impressions can be completely removed, and our remarks must be regarded as a warning against the extensive use of such untrustworthy agents. Luckily, Mr. Bailey has been able to induce Messrs. Stephens to experiment, with the object of obtaining an ink which could be used with rubber stamps and be unaffected by chemicals, and the result is that they have produced an ink which, though not perfect, is still superior to the common aniline inks, inasmuch as it cannot be entirely removed. Printing ink used with metal stamps is impervious to the action of chemicals, but the time it takes to dry and the increased labour which the stamps give, as compared with rubber ones, must be held to be obstacles to ordinary use in libraries. A good, cheap, and easily handled perforating stamp which can be worked like a pair of pincers is a desideratum.

This report would be incomplete without mention of some of the forms or articles of stationery which are now so much used. As samples are here of most of them, it will be sufficient to allude to the handy circulars of Information or Guides to Readers issued by the Bootle, Cambridge, Birkenhead, Liverpool, Manchester, and other libraries, and to the Note Book and Readers' Record used at Edinburgh and Rotherham.

There are many other articles of a similar nature which are interesting, but they hardly come within the scope of this report. A method of directing readers to the library building by means of enamelled iron tablets attached to the street lamp-posts has been adopted at Clerkenwell, and, we believe, at Paddington—possibly, also, at other places yet unknown to me. Such tablets only cost about 2s. 9d. each, and will last many years. They form a very good means of advertising the institution among people who cannot be reached in any other way. The immediate effect of their exhibition all over Clerkenwell was a marked increase in the newsroom attendance and reference library issue.

It was my intention to make mention of such appliances as Reading Tables and Desks, Ladders, Lifts, Trucks, Tags, &c., &c., but their number and variety are so great that I gladly abandoned the task, especially as I found that the mere written description of almost any appliance takes up an appalling amount of time and space, without in the end being clear. I have, therefore, assumed that everyone knows about such matters, and that appliances have had sufficient attention for the present session. No attempt was made to gather information about the appliances used in America, owing to the difficulties surrounding the matter; but I may yet be able to get some information about them and perhaps obtain actual models. An "improved book carriage" invented by Mr. L. C. Leith, of Galveston, Texas, is shown in the small engraving submitted. It may have its uses for folio volumes, but having never seen it in actual work its merits or demerits can hardly be noted.

It only remains to apologise for the imperfections of this report, both as regards its matter and presentation, and to assure librarians and others whose appliances have not been mentioned, that they have themselves to thank for the omission. An express invitation calling for notes was given twice in the *Library*, and in many stationery, furniture and architectural journals, while many private enquiries were circulated, unfortunately in many cases without being answered. In these circumstances I must hold myself largely absolved from blame.

The collection of material for this report has suggested the propriety of making an earnest effort to start what has been often mooted but never carried out, namely, the formation of a museum of library appliances. Towards this Mr. A. W.

Robertson, of Aberdeen, has kindly given a model of the "Duplex Indicator," &c., and I have little doubt that if the necessary appeal were made, the Association would by and bye find itself in possession of a very valuable collection of everything connected with library management. A little museum of models or patterns of appliances; catalogues and forms from the best libraries in the United Kingdom and America; plans, drawings, photographs, books and all other objects possessing interest for persons engaged in library administration—could hardly fail to prove a useful feature in the work of this Association. Such a permanent collection placed in London and made accessible to librarians and others would be of the highest value to organisers of new libraries, and full of suggestion to any one who made it a visit. If it is agreeable to this Association, and thought worthy of the trial, I will undertake to form such a collection; to arrange and catalogue it; and to make it accessible to all, under such regulations as may be fixed by the Council. In time it might become a very valuable possession, and one which the Association could point to as a proof of the activity and inventive resource possessed by librarians, and there can hardly be a doubt that its use would result in improved methods and more liberal views of the requirements of the profession.

JAMES D. BROWN.

August 19th, 1891.

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Library Association of the United Kingdom.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

APPOINTED AT READING TO REVISE THE REGULATIONS FOR
EXAMINING LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

To the Council of the Library Association of the United Kingdom.

GENTLEMEN,—

The Special Committee which you appointed to consider the Regulations for examination of Library Assistants submit the following Report. They have considered the excellent scheme of examination set forth in the Council's printed prospectus, and they have avoided suggesting any changes in it, except where such are considered, from experience, desirable and even urgent. Your Committee have in no way sought to reduce the standard of excellence required from the examinees, but have aimed at popularizing the examination and rendering it less onerous to Library Assistants by giving greater prominence to the preliminary examination, and by the subdivision of the advanced examination. From the intimate knowledge which your Committee have of the duties of the majority of Library Assistants, and the comparatively little time, with due regard to their health, which they can give to private study, the Committee feel themselves fully justified in laying particular stress on the desirability of dividing the advanced examination, and letting it proceed by one or more subjects, according to the will of the examinee; and this recommendation they make all the more readily from the feeling that knowledge acquired leisurely and free from pressure would be better assimilated and of a more enduring character than if acquired otherwise. Further, the Committee, as managing librarians, believe that if their assistants could be induced to "read up" and be examined in several subjects of the proposed curriculum, even if they should not proceed further, it would be of decided value to them and the work in which they are engaged. It would be desirable to issue to the student an acknowledgment or certificate of the successful passing in each subject, should he elect to pass his examination in this more leisurely way;

and a parchment when he had passed in the whole of the subjects. Without wishing to trench on the domain of the examiners, the Committee deprecate the asking of questions which are of little use except to show that the candidate for examination has a super-excellent memory, as for example, asking the student to state the order of publication of the various works of some voluminous and popular author. On the other hand, they would suggest that the examinees be tested as to their acquaintance with the several subjects named under the head "administration," set forth in the annexed amended scheme of examination, and as to their knowledge of the important subject of bookbinding.

As the Committee feel that the publication of a lengthy list of textbooks for the purpose of study, is more calculated to deter than to encourage Library Assistants to commence a course of study with a view to examination, they would therefore suggest, as more politic, the printing of a short and comprehensive list, rather than an extensive and voluminous one. Your Committee see no reason why the promotion of assistants in libraries should not be more or less dependent on their passing wholly, or in part, the examination of the Library Association; and they have every desire to give practical effect to this view, believing that the systematic study of the various subjects included in the curriculum must tend to benefit assistants, libraries, and readers.

In conclusion, the Committee desire to express their obligations to the compilers of the examination scheme already in use; a scheme which has served as a copy and guide, and which they propose to modify only to a very limited degree.

We are, yours very truly,

PETER COWELL, *Free Libraries, Liverpool.*

CHARLES W. SUTTON, *Free Libraries, Manchester.*

JOHN D. MULLINS, *Free Libraries, Birmingham.*

WILLIAM MAY, *Free Library, Birkenhead.*

JOHN J. OGLE, *Free Library, Bootle.*

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EXAMINATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom holds Examinations periodically for the purpose of granting Certificates to Library Assistants and others.

For the present, persons who have not actually been engaged as Library Assistants may be admitted to the Examinations on obtaining permission from the Council.

The Examinations will consist of a Preliminary and an Ordinary Examination. Each Candidate must pass the Preliminary Examination before entering for the Ordinary, unless he can produce certificates of proficiency in the subjects thereof, satisfactory to the Examiners.

SYLLABUS OF THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

- I. Commercial Arithmetic and Elementary Book-Keeping. A paper of questions will be set relating to such arithmetical operations as are likely to come within the ordinary duties of a Librarian.
- II. English Grammar and Composition; Writing and Spelling. These will be tested by an essay on a familiar subject.
- III. English History. The dates of the principal events and the names of the principal personages in English History, with the circumstances which have rendered them famous.
- IV. Geography.
- V. English Literature. The names of the chief writers, the period when each flourished, and the principal works by which each is known.
- VI. Cataloguing. The transcription of entries from English Title-pages for a short title catalogue on the Dictionary plan.

TEXT BOOKS.

The following will be sufficiently advanced:—

Subject II—Morris's *English Grammar* and Nichol's *English Composition*, in Literature Primers (*Macmillan*, 1s.)

Subject III—Collier's *British Empire*, Junior Class Book (*Nelson*, 1s. 6d.)

Subject IV—Sir George Grove's *Geography*, in History Primers (*Macmillan*, 1s.)

Subject V—Stopford Brooke's *English Literature*, in Literature Primers (*Macmillan*, 1s.)

Subject VI—Cataloguing Rules of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, except Rules 5, 20, 23, 24, 30 to end (*Library Association Year-Book*, 1891).

The Examiners will issue a certificate to every candidate who satisfies them in this examination.

SYLLABUS OF THE ORDINARY EXAMINATION.

I. English Literature especially of the last hundred years. The requirements for a *pass* certificate will be met by a candidate having a thorough knowledge of the matter of text-books 1, 2, 3, in the list appended, together with a knowledge of the various editions of the more important English works, and the literature that has grown up around them. A candidate may acquire this knowledge by one or two years' service in a good library.

For a *full* certificate, text-books 9 and 10 and other available sources of information should be studied.

II. French or German Literature. Easy passages for translation, and the subject matter of text-book 4 or 4a for a *pass* certificate.

For a *full* certificate, the subject matter of text-book 11 or 11a.

III. Classification. For a *pass* certificate, a knowledge of the names and scope of the principal sciences and their relation to each other, together with the power of placing a number of book-titles under their proper subject headings will be required.

For a *full* certificate, the candidate must show an acquaintance with the principles of a Natural Classification, and be familiar with the systems of classification of books followed in the principal modern libraries of England and America. Text-books 12 and 13 should be thoroughly studied.

IV. Elements of Bibliography and Cataloguing. For a *pass* certificate, the candidate must show a fair knowledge of the matter dealt with in text-books 5 and 6, and be able to catalogue a number of books in at least two languages, other than English, one of which must be Latin.

For a *full* certificate, the candidate must be familiar with the substance of papers and discussions on cataloguing and size notation, and the various branches of bibliography which are detailed in the publications of the Library Association of the United Kingdom; he must have some acquaintance with the leading catalogues and bibliographical works, especially those produced in English-speaking countries; he must know the Latin names of the towns most frequently found in imprints; he must show a cataloguing knowledge of three languages, other than English, and be able, accurately and fully, to catalogue Incunabula submitted to him.

The candidate may offer not more than two special subjects in the bibliography of which he may desire to be tested, and if he satisfy the examiners his proficiency shall be endorsed on the certificate.

V. Library Management and Administration. This branch of the examination will be directed rather to test the candidate's experience and his skill and readiness in dealing with the various practical problems which may be submitted to him.

The candidate will be examined as to his knowledge of the methods in use in his own library, or in any other with which he may be acquainted. The chief subjects of examination under this head may be set out thus:—

1. Library Buildings:—General requirements as to lighting, ventilation and plan.

2. Library Fittings and Appliances.
3. Selection and Acquisition of Books.
4. Shelf Arrangement.
5. Catalogues:—(a), Shelf Lists (b), Accession Lists (c), Catalogues for Readers.
6. Binding:—Material, ornament, cutting down, requirements in well-bound, and usual defects in ill-bound books, incongruous, wasteful and costly bindings.
7. Administration:—(a), finance (b), librarian's relation to readers (c), circulation of books (1) lending, (2) reference department, (d), stock-taking (e), duties of staff.

The candidate for a *full* certificate will be expected to show some knowledge of the arrangements and regulations of the leading libraries in this country of the class of that in which he is employed, and to be familiar with the works under the head of Library Management and Administration in the list of Reference Books appended.

VI. General Literary History. Questions in this subject will only be set to candidates for the *full* certificate. Text-books 14 and 15 ought to be read, but questions will not be limited to their subject-matter only.

LIST OF TEXT BOOKS FOR THE ORDINARY EXAMINATION.

Pass Certificate.

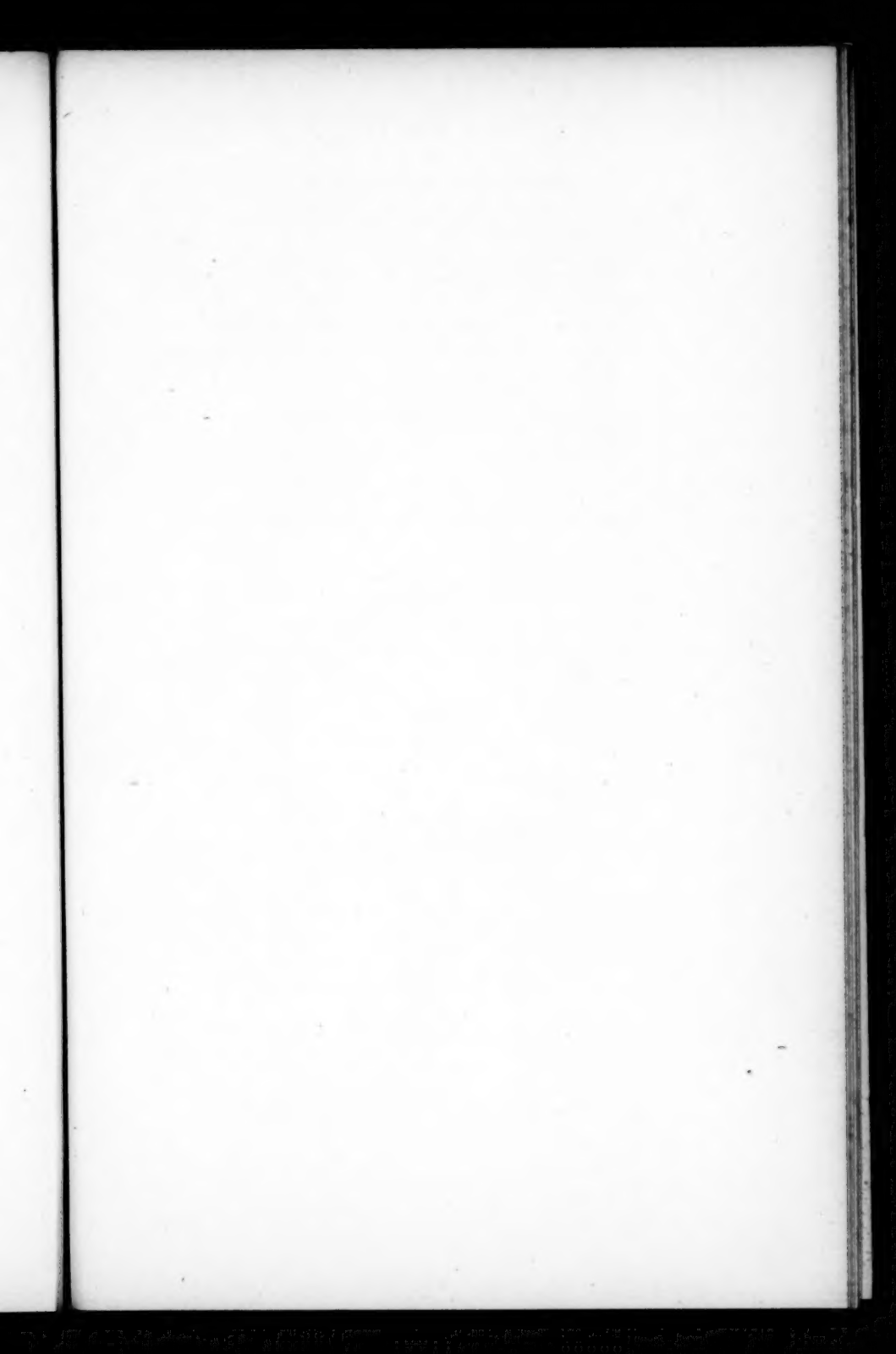
1. Morley's *First Sketch of English Literature*, or Craik's *Manual of English Literature*.
2. Morley's *English Literature in the Reign of Victoria*.
3. Richardson's *Primer of American Literature*.
4. Saintsbury's *Primer of French Literature*.
- 4a. Gostwick and Harrison's *Outline of German Literature*.
5. Articles on Bibliography and Typography (Historical part) in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* (9th edition).
6. Horne's *Introduction to Bibliography*, Vol. I except part 1, Chapter iii; and Part 2, Chapter iii.
7. Mullins's *Free Libraries and News Rooms*.
8. Greenwood's *Free Public Libraries* (latest edition).

Full Certificate.

9. Taine's *Histoire de la littérature anglaise*.
10. Mrs. Oliphant's *Literary History in the end of the Eighteenth and the beginning of the Nineteenth Century*.
11. Geruzez's *Histoire de la littérature française*.
- 11a. Scherer's *Geschichte der deutschen Litteratur* (original or translated).
12. Fowler's *Inductive Logic*, pages 45-48.
13. Jevons's *Principles of Science*, chapter xxx.
14. Berington's *Literary History of the Middle Ages*.
15. Hallam's *Literature of Europe*.

REFERENCE BOOKS FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS.

- Subject I. Cassell's *Library of English Literature*, ed. H. Morley.
Morley's *English Writers*.
- III. Mill's *System of Logic*.
Whewell's *Inductive Sciences*.
- IV. Cotton's *Typographical Gazetteer*.
British Museum *Catalogue of Bibliographies*, (latest edition).
- V. The Article on Libraries in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, (9th edition).
Edwards' *Memoirs of Libraries*.
U.S. Government Report on Libraries, 1876.
L. A. U. K. *Transactions* and other publications.
American Library Journal.





REPORT
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM TO THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL
MEETING TO BE HELD AT NOTTINGHAM,
SEPTEMBER 16TH, 17TH, AND 18TH,
1891.



SEVERAL years have passed since the Council has been able to report so large an amount of completed work and so much solid progress, as have been attained during the past twelve months.

Freed from its financial difficulties, the Association has proved that, far from being lethargic or declining, it is capable of carrying-out vigorously the arduous programme it has laid down for itself.

READING MEETING.

It is usual to revert to the last Annual Meeting as the starting point of a new year's work, and the Council has peculiar pleasure in acknowledging the excellent effect produced by the most successful meeting at Reading. The hospitality was so generous, and the programme both of work and play so good, that it would be strange indeed if those privileged to enjoy it did not feel encouraged to put forth their best efforts in the service of the Association and the promotion of its objects.

PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

Although it too frequently happens that local causes conspire to make it impossible or inexpedient for the Association to assist, formally and officially, in the promotion of movements in favour of adopting the Acts, it rarely happens that any agitation is carried on in which the Association is not represented directly or indirectly. The resolution passed at Reading, ordering that a certain sum should be spent in the printing and distribution of propaganda

literature has been carried out, and as a first experiment 5000 copies of Sir John Lubbock's speech at Rotherhithe have been printed. A considerable number of these have been distributed in districts where the agitation is being carried on, and will no doubt have an excellent effect. The past year has been one of steady advance, and the record now presented is full of encouragement.

In the United Kingdom the Acts have been adopted in twenty-one places since the Council issued its last Report. Of these six are within the County of London, viz. :—

Bromley-by-Bow.	St. Giles & St. George (Blooms-
Holborn (District).	bury).
Newington (Surrey).	Shoreditch.
Poplar.	

The fifteen places in the Provinces are :—

Arcledon and Frizinton (Cumber-	Lowestoft.
land).	Lurgan.
Barry and Cadoxton (near Cardiff).	Peterborough.
Elgin.	South Stockton.
East Hartlepool.	West Ham.
Hove (Brighton).	West Hartlepool.
Kendal.	Willesden.
Longton.	Wood Green.

New Buildings have been opened in the following towns :—

Belfast (Reference).	London— <i>continued</i> .
Bolton.	Streatham.
Crieff.	Kirkwall.
Croydon (Branch).	Maidstone (Lending).
Hull (Reference).	Newcastle-under-Lyme.
London :—	Oldbury.
Battersea (Branch).	Pontypridd.
Camberwell (Branch).	Portsmouth.
Chelsea.	Rugby.
Clerkenwell.	Sale.
Rotherhithe.	Salford (Branch).
St. Martin-in-the-Fields.	Salisbury.
Stoke Newington (Temporary).	Tipton (2 News Rooms).

The Acts have been rejected at :—

Bowdon.	London— <i>continued</i> .
London :—	Islington.
Bethnal Green.	Paddington.
Deptford.	St. Marylebone.

LEGISLATION.

At the Reading Meeting a Committee was appointed to prepare and promote a new Library Bill. Their first meeting was presided over by Sir John Lubbock, and he advised that the Association should content itself with promoting a Consolidation Bill, which should embrace all the active clauses of the existing Acts; and that such amendments as the Association would like to effect should be proposed while the Bill was being passed through Committee. This course was resolved upon, and the Committee requested Mr. Fanshawe, a Parliamentary Draftsman of considerable experience, to prepare the Bill.

This has been done, and the Bill is now in the hands of the Council. As soon as possible after the Annual Meeting the Committee will meet to consider and prepare a list of amendments to be in readiness for the Winter Session. Any one who has amendments to propose should send them without delay to Mr. MacAlister.

THE LIBRARY MANUAL.

It is, for some reasons, unfortunate that the Council is unable to present this as a completed piece of work to the members of the Association, but it is better that so important a work should be done well than that it should be done hastily; and the Council has no hesitation in saying that, on the whole, the delay has been an advantage. A large portion of the MS. was placed in the printer's hands some months ago, and other portions are ready for the press, but other and most important sections have been kept back in order that they might contain the latest information on certain subjects. For example, it was deemed advisable to delay the Statistics Section until the Census Returns should be published, in order that the comparative tables might give the correct population of each town or district tabulated.

The Editing Committee, in order to facilitate what remains to be done, have appointed Mr. Mason their executive Editor, and to him should be addressed all communications referring to the *Manual*.

"THE LIBRARY."

The Organ of the Association has appeared regularly. The October number of last year contained a complete report of the proceedings of the Reading Meeting, and every paper read at that meeting has appeared in its pages.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

These have been regularly held, and the attendance has been good.

At the October meeting held at Hanover Square, the Report of the Committee on Statistical Returns of Free Public Libraries was read and discussed.

At the November meeting, Mr. Joseph Gilbert read a paper entitled "Some Misleading Titles of Modern Books."

The December meeting was held at the Battersea Public Library, when Mr. Inkster, the Librarian, read a paper on the "Public Libraries of Battersea."

At the January meeting, held at the Clerkenwell Public Library, Mr. J. D. Brown, the Librarian, read a paper on the "Working of the Clerkenwell Public Library."

At the February meeting, held at Hanover Square, a paper was read by Mr. Ogle, entitled "The Selection of Geological and Biological Books for a Free Public Library."

The March meeting was held at the Richmond Public Library, when Mr. Pacy, the Librarian, read a paper entitled "Notes on the Richmond Library."

At the April meeting, held at the Clapham Public Library, Mr. Welch, the Librarian, read a paper on the library under his charge.

The May meeting was held at Hanover Square, when Mr. Frank Campbell read a paper entitled "A Plea for (1) an Annual List of State Papers and (2) an Annual Report on State Papers."

At the June meeting, held at Braby's Club, Deptford, Mr. Humphery read a paper entitled "The Literary Associations of Deptford."

EXAMINATIONS.

The Committee, appointed at Reading to consider and report upon the whole scheme of Examinations, have submitted an elaborate and able report with recommendations which will be submitted for your approval at this meeting.

CONGRESS OF HYGIENE AND DEMOGRAPHY.

The Council was invited to send delegates to this important Congress, and they appointed Messrs. J. Blake Bailey and J. Y. W. MacAlister to represent them. Mr. MacAlister had the honour of being appointed Chairman of the Editing Committee of the Congress, and contributed a paper to the Section of Preventive Medicine "On Public Libraries and Infection."

REPORTS ON LIBRARY SUBJECTS.

At their January Meeting, the Council resolved to request various gentlemen to prepare reports on several subjects interesting to librarians, to be read and, if thought desirable, discussed at the Annual Meeting. Accordingly the following reports were arranged for :—

On Catalogues, by Mr. C. W. Sutton.

Library Appliances, by Mr. J. D. Brown.

New Library Buildings, by Mr. Frank J. Burgoyne.

On Library Reports, by Mr. C. Madeley.

These reports, it is hoped, will bring up to date the sum of knowledge on the various subjects, and should prove of great value, both as bases of discussion at the Meeting and for reference.

FINANCE.

The Treasurer reports :—"On the change of the form of subscription, the first payment covered a period of sixteen months, ending 31st December, 1890. It was therefore necessary last year to present accounts partly made up of estimates. In order to give the Association a full statement of their financial affairs, an account (marked "A"), supplementary to those of 1890, is now submitted. This represents the actual income and expenditure for the sixteen months. When compared with the last report a considerable difference between the estimated and the actual results will be seen, mainly due, as mentioned in the auditors' statement, to an under-estimate for general printing and stationery. The payment for clerical assistance (10s. weekly), and the expenses of indexing and editing the Dublin and Plymouth volumes (£10 10s.), were not anticipated. The account also includes some items, such as Rent at Gray's Inn, Dublin Transactions, and Plymouth Proceedings, which refer to previous years.

"The Council resolved, 22nd January, to pay during this year sixpence apiece for the copies of *The Library*. This represents an increase of £20 to the annual cost.

"From the annual subscriptions in 1891, about £30 less will be received than in 1890. This does not mean a falling-off in the actual number of members, as the Register has now been weeded of many whose membership had lapsed owing to their subscriptions being persistently in arrear. One member has compounded by the payment of a Life Subscription of £15 15s. The amount invested for Life Subscriptions is now £210 in Consols, of which the sum of £60

was purchased in August. The cost of these investments has been £207 9s.

"Unless the Council, in the interest of the Association, should resolve upon expenditure not at present contemplated, there is no reason to anticipate that the estimate of a surplus at the end of the year of about £83 will not be realised.

"At the date of this report, the Benevolent Fund consisted of £15 15s. 3d. There have been received during the year, subscriptions of £2 2s. from Mr. J. W. Knapman, and of 12s. from Mr. C. Day. No grants have been made."

MEMBERSHIP.

In spite of withdrawals on account of the increased subscription, the number of members is steadily increasing, and now stands at 470. The list includes 30 Honorary Members, 32 Life Members, who have compounded their annual subscriptions, and 408 Ordinary Members.

PRIZE ESSAYS.

Mr. MacAlister has again offered several prizes, amounting in the aggregate to £20, for essays on various subjects, to be competed for by members of the Association. Full particulars have been published in *The Library*, and in the *Year-Book*. The result will be announced at Nottingham.

OBITUARY.

There remains the sad duty of recording the losses which the Association has sustained by death during the past year. They include Mr. John De Maine Browne, Librarian of the Public Library, Douglas; Mr. Stephen Christy, of Davenport, Stockport; the Rev. Dr. G. Deane, of Edgbaston, Birmingham; Councillor James Jackson, of Wigan; the Rev. S. S. Lewis, Librarian of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; and the Rev. Dr. William Tyler, the founder of the Bethnal Green Free Library, and its Hon. Secretary and benefactor till the day of his death.

J. Y. W. MACALISTER, { *Hon. Secs.*
THOMAS MASON, }



The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We have to report that we have examined the Balance Sheet of the Association at the 31st December, 1890, and the Income and Expenditure Account for sixteen months ending at that date, with the Treasurer's books and vouchers, and find the same correct.

The estimate of Income and Expenditure for the above-named period of sixteen months, published in the last Report, showed an estimated surplus of Income of £57. 1s., while the actual result, as appears by the present accounts, was an excess of Expenditure of £7. 5s. 5d. This difference was due mainly to an under-estimate of about £43. for General Printing and Stationery.

The Treasurer's estimate of Income and Expenditure for the year 1891 is based upon the experience of former years and the actual receipts and expenditure to this date.

GEO. R. HUMPHERY,	} <i>Auditors.</i>
T. J. AGAR,	
Chartered Accountant.	

31st August, 1891.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

A. Account of Income and Expenditure for Sixteen Months, 1st September, 1889, to 31st December, 1890.

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.
Life Subscriptions (reserved for investment, per contra)	24	3	0
Annual Subscriptions due 1st January, 1890, covering a period of 16 months, 1st September, 1889, to 31st December, 1890	419	14	0
Dividends on £150. Consols and Interest from Post Office Savings Bank	7	1	4
Sale of Publications, less proportion credited to Stock	13	2	5
	464	0	9
Balance, being excess of Expenditure	7	5	5

£471 6 2

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Life Subscriptions reserved for investment	24	3	0
<i>The Library</i> supplied to Members, &c., for sixteen months, including postage	207	0	8
Dublin <i>Transactions</i> and Plymouth <i>Proceedings</i> :—			
Balance of Printers' accounts	£15	14	9
Index and Editing	10	10	0
	26	4	9
Rent of Offices :—			
Gray's Inn, 1½ years to Christmas, 1889	12	10	0
Hanover Square, ¾ year to Christmas, 1890	30	0	0
	42	10	0
Reporting at Annual Meetings, 1889 and 1890	12	6	0
General Printing, Binding and Stationery, including account of Messrs. Davy & Sons, £46. 10s. 2d., awaiting examination	91	12	11
Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co. for "Monthly Notes" ..	3	0	0
Clerical Assistance	25	0	7
Incidental and Petty Expenses, including general Postages, &c.	31	7	9
Subscriptions overdue and reckoned as an Asset in Balance Sheet at 31st August, 1889, but not received	8	0	6

£471 6 2

HENRY R. TEDDER, *Treasurer*.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

B. Balance Sheet of Liabilities and Assets at the 31st December, 1890.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Life Members' Subscriptions required by the Constitution to be invested	205 16 0	Investment—£150 Consols 2½ per Cent., at Cost	149 12 3
Annual Subscriptions for 1891 and 1892, received in advance.....	23 12 6	Cash on Deposit with Post Office Savings Bank	17 18 10
Benevolent Fund—Amount at credit	15 15 3	Cash at Bankers	121 13 7
Sundry Accounts owing by the Association at the 31st December, 1890, viz. :—		Estimated Amount to be received for Subscriptions overdue.....	4 14 6
J. Davy & Sons, Printers	46 10 2	Office Fixtures, &c.	5 15 0
Adlard & Son, do.	3 15 6	Stock of the Association's Publications estimated to realize	40 0 0
J. Bale & Sons, do.	34 2 11		339 14 2
C. Chivers, Binding	3 6 6	Balance being excess of Liabilities (including in the latter Life Members' Subscriptions, £205. 16s.) viz.—	5 4 8
Rent—Hanover Square.....	10 0 0	Excess of Expenditure over Income in 16 months, ending 31st Dec., 1890....	£7 5 5
Sundries	2 0 0	Less Surplus in Balance Sheet at 31st August, 1889	2 0 9
	99 15 1		5 4 8
NOTE.—The above Accounts have all since been paid, with the exception of "J. Davy & Sons, £46. 10s. 2d.," which is awaiting examination.		HENRY R. TEDDER, <i>Treasurer.</i>	
		£344 18 10	

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

C. Estimated Income and Expenditure Account for the Year 1891.

INCOME.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.								
Life Subscription (reserved for investment, per contra).					15	15	0	Life Subscription reserved for investment		15	15	0					
Annual Subscriptions :—																	
Received to 31st August.....					353	16	0	<i>The Library</i> to be supplied to Members for twelve months, including postage					170	4	0		
Outstanding, estimated at					35	3	6	General Printing and Stationery, estimated at					50	0	0		
					<hr/>												
					388	19	6	Rent—Hanover Square					40	0	0		
Dividends on Investment and Interest from Post Office Savings Bank					5			0	0	Sundry Expenses, viz :—							
Rent of Offices received from Sub-tenant.....					5			0	0	General Postages, Clerical Assistance, Reporting, Petty Cash, &c., &c., estimated at.....					65	0	0
Sale of Publications, estimated					10			0	0						340	19	0
								Balance—being estimated Surplus of Income for the year 1891					83	15	6		
													<hr/>				
													£424	14	6		
													<hr/>				
													HENRY R. TEDDER, <i>Treasurer.</i>				

